

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Dr. Douglas Liston, Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)

5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051

www.joyfulharvest.org



November 22nd, 2020

Christ the King Sunday

This week we will be worshipping virtually on line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch on Zoom, or you can watch the live-stream on Facebook! Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

Our lives scattered on the floor of the world, our limits pushed by stress and its best friend, impatience, we come:

For here, God would gather us, bringing us to the realm of peace.

Wondering if truth is fake or worth pursuing, questioning whether anyone is worth following or believing, we come:

For here, God would feed us with wisdom, sending the One who would lead us to the realm of hope.

Questioning the motives of everyone in power, doubting that justice can be found anywhere, we come:

For here, God brings us to worship with our sisters and brothers, scooping us up from every place we have strayed.

Gathering Songs

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (NRSV)

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one

shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Psalm: Psalm 13 (NRSV)

¹How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

⁴and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 (NRSV)

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV)

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory...

This is the gospel of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Message

A special thank you to Bishop Jeff Clements and Pastor Janet Hunt for their sharing of lament.

Prayers of Intercession

Meal

Offering: Friends, while our programs and in-person worship are temporarily modified, our responsibilities for our regular bills (mortgage, utilities, payroll, etc.) continue. Please send your gifts to the church office: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051** Or you may give online at **www.joyfulharvest.org**

Call to Reconciliation

So accustomed to the world's shadows, we do not think of ourselves as being lost. We are so confident of where we are going, we never ask for directions. But as we confess the lives we truly lead, we discover how scattered we are. So, let us pray together, as we discover the One who has been searching for us...

Gathering God, this week, we threw an extra can of (on sale) veggies in our overflowing grocery carts; we donated that old coat we haven't worn in a couple of years to the thrift store; we re-gifted a bouquet to a neighbor in the hospital. Did you notice? Or were you too busy cleaning the guest room for the immigrant couple; buying hats and gloves for all the kids in the school near your home; sitting by the bed of a hospice patient after the family left for the night? Merciful God, we spend so much time patting ourselves on the back, that we do not notice how you are constantly searching the ends of the earth for all your children, even going into the very grip of death to bring us all new life. Give us the faith to live as your people, and the wisdom to let go of all that you have poured into our lives, even as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept...

God feeds the hungry and gives hope to the parched. **That's us.**
God brings healing to the sick and visits those imprisoned. **That's us.**
God wraps warmth around the cold, and knits a sweater for the naked. **That's us.**

God loves every person, forgives every person, cares for every person. **That's us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Lord's Supper

All are welcome to come to communion; if you believe that Christ is truly present here today, we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table. The communion cups we share today have a wafer sealed under a clear piece of plastic (peel this off first) and grape juice in the lower portion.

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver

us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion Song

Sending

Sending Song

Sending and Benediction

Now, from where God has gathered us, let us go.

To discover that the stranger and homeless, the prisoner and the hospice patient and everyone else are our sisters and brothers.

Now, from where we have been fed, let us go.

To join Jesus in serving those who thirst for righteousness as well as those who hunger for justice.

Now, from where we have been one, let us go.

To find those who have been tossed aside, gathering them up to bring them to the Spirit's goodness and peace.

Commissioning

At Joyful Harvest Church, **our mission is growing together for Christ.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value: **Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

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Announcements

Live-Streaming Wednesday Evening Bible Study! DiscipleShip is back! Weekly Wednesday evening Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. Follow the link on the website! "See" you then!

Rummage Sale: Check out our online rummage sale – we're posting some of the larger items in the basement to Facebook Marketplace so we can keep the pile in the basement manageable! Check it out – there's probably something there that you desperately need! Go to Facebook Marketplace and search Theresa Ancona!



Donate to help the ministries of Joyful Harvest!

Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device.

You'll go straight to our online giving page to set up a one-time or recurring gift through your debit/credit card processed through PayPal. **Thank you!!**

Operation Christmas Child: With the difficulties of the pandemic, we've decided to do a financial contribution to OCC this year and not pack shoeboxes. If you'd like to contribute to this ministry of spreading the Good News to children in living in other countries, please mark your gift (on the memo line) to be directed to OCC.

Yahoo is discontinuing their group email function. So, the Joyful Harvest Prayer Chain email address will be: joyfulharvestprayers@googlegroups.com – watch your email for prayer requests from this new address!



Joyful Harvest's Virtual Angel Tree is an easy way for you to view and select Christmas wishes for children in need

1. **VISIT THE WEBSITE** Go to www.joyfulharvest.org/angeltree
2. **SELECT AN ANGEL** Choose an Angel you would like to adopt. Click on the gift you'd like to purchase and mark it as reserved or purchased.
3. **HAVE FUN SHOPPING** Visit a local store OR shop online. We ask that you spend no more than \$35 on each child.
4. **DELIVER THE GIFTS** Bring the item(s) you purchase to Joyful Harvest before December 14. Please call before you come to the church to be certain that Pastor is there.

Thank you so much for helping a child have a very Merry Christmas!

Weekly Calendar

Sun. Nov 22	Sunday Worship – <u>Live-Streaming Worship</u>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 22	Semi-Annual Meeting – <u>Live-Streaming</u>	10:15 a.m.
Tue. Nov 24	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:30 p.m.
Wed. Nov 25	Thanksgiving Eve Worship – <u>Live-Streaming</u>	7:00 p.m.
Thur. Nov 26	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Sat. Nov 28	Men's Group – <u>Live-Streaming</u>	7:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 29	Sunday Worship – <u>Live-Streaming Worship</u>	9:00 a.m.

Men's Group: Men's group is back to meeting virtually – join us at 7 am on Saturday mornings by clicking on the link from our website!

Susan Mercado, daughter of Gary and Connie Craig, has set up a Joyful Harvest web page that will help JH financially! If you do any online shopping, go to savingwithsusan.com/joyfulharvest and link through to your favorite online shopping sites. The church will receive a commission on everything you buy! Or, you can go to Susan's site by visiting our web page and clicking on the link on the right side of the our homepage!

**November's
Memory Verse**
Deuteronomy 6:5

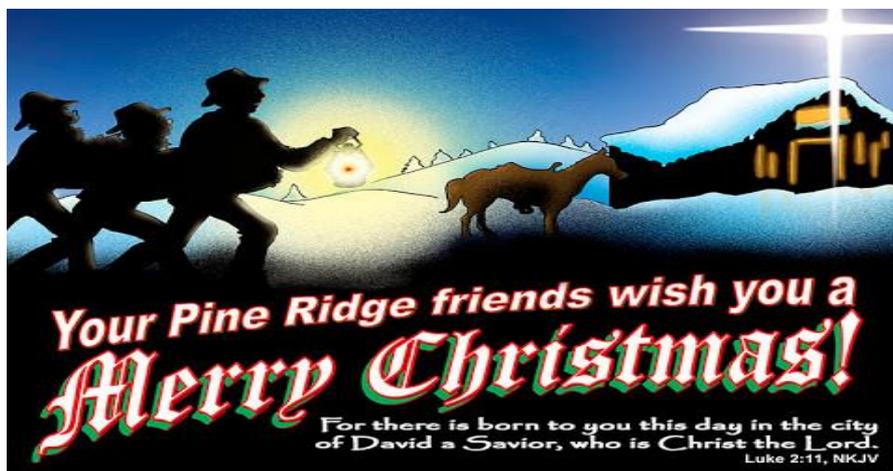
"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."



**Semi-Annual Meeting – via Zoom –
November 22, following worship at 10:15 a.m.!**



Please join us Thanksgiving Eve, November 25 at 7 pm for a live streaming Thanksgiving service!



**Your Pine Ridge friends wish you a
Merry Christmas!**
For there is born to you this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NKJV

Carols, Candlelight, and Communion!
December 24, 7 & 10 pm

Join us Christmas Eve for a special service based on an old-time radio program, Lum and Abner's Christmas Story from 1938 with some of your favorite Christmas songs, too! Live-streamed on Zoom and Facebook. In-person worship may yet be possible, check the website for more information www.joyfulharvest.org

Blue Christmas – Dec.20, 7 p.m.

**Live-Streaming – Click on the link on our website –
www.joyfulharvest.org In-person may yet be possible...
Watch our website for more information!**



NOVEMBER 22, 2020
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



God's justice cares for the weak and lost.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and goats
Monday	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God, the true shepherd
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Wednesday	Psalm 100	All lands called to praise God
Thursday	Isaiah 1:16-20	Justice is needed
Friday	Amos 5:10-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalm 95:1-7a	Worship and obey the Lord
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. **Ezekiel 34:16 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 95:7a)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, to you we make a joyful noise for all that you do, including your gift of this food for us today. Amen. (Psalm 95:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of power and might bless you with joy and peace.

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life. Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you had all the power you could want, what would you want to do?
- What is wrong with the religious leaders in the Bible using their power for themselves?
- Why is it good news to know that God cares for the poor, the sick, and the hungry?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:31-46. The God of the Bible is the God of justice but not just any kind of justice. God's justice recognizes the unfairness of power that abuses the weak. In Ezekiel 34 God has had enough of Judah's unjust shepherds, specifically, the kings who have not taken care of God's sheep. Therefore, God declares the sheep that are lost, strayed, injured, and weak will be cared for by God's power and the fat and the strong sheep—supposedly those well off at the expense of the weak—will be destroyed (v. 16). That is the divine judgment Jesus presents in the parable of the sheep and the goats. God's will—Jesus' will, as seen in the Son of Man in the parable—is to provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, or sick. The message is so strong that when anyone has cared for these, they have cared for the Son of Man. The Gospel of Matthew does not shy away from judgment that distinguishes the authentic from the inauthentic life of those who follow Jesus. Matthew speaks against those who abuse their powers, whether religious, social, political, or economic. This final Sunday in the church year recognizes that all evil abuses will end one day and only God's compassion will survive through Christ, the true ruler of all things. How do you live as though Jesus, the Son of Man is with you as you show care and help others in need? *Pray:* **Almighty God, help us to see you in our neighbors, especially those in need of care through Jesus Christ, the one who is above all rule and authority. Amen.**

SERVICE

Whether you live in an urban or rural setting, there are many in need. Donations of time and money are appreciated by those in need and the organizations that help them. Think about how you can help support these individuals or organizations.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 95:1-7a and circle or say the action words like "sing," "make a joyful noise," "bow down," and "kneel." Reread the psalm out loud and act out the parts you highlighted. Afterward, close with this blessing: **May the Lord God rejoice at the sound of your joyful noise and songs of praise.**



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Join us for worship: Sundays 9 am!