



## Message from Pastor Tim

### *November 2011: The King of Justice and Peace*

*Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so" ---Luke 23:3*

*Jesus talked about the kingdom of God more often than any other subject. He used stories and images to communicate its beauty and value. He told us that the kingdom is within us, and all around us. And yet, we are always looking forward to its full realization when Jesus comes again.*

*For most of us the idea of Jesus as king might seem dated, a little too patriarchal, or it might clash with other images of him as teacher, healer, prophet, and compassionate friend. But because we are people who are gifted with really poor memories, we need the annual reminder that Jesus is the one to whom we bend in obedience, and that his rule of love sometimes orders us in directions that we might not want to go. That is what a king does.*

*There is a song from the Taize' Community that has a simple and lilting description of the realm where Jesus rules:*

*The kingdom of God is justice and peace,  
And joy in the Holy Spirit  
Come, Lord, and open in us,  
The gates of your kingdom.*

*Jesus takes the worldly vision of power and might, and changes it into a gentle vision of justice and peace. Leaders in the church work as co-creators of God's kingdom. We are urged to keep our confirmation promises in mind: "to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." For most of us it may seem easier to plan worship and ministries of education and service than to tackle the hard work of justice. There are many different opinions about what is just, and even more opinions about how to seek peace. There is always the temptation before us to busy ourselves with less controversial matters, like the parking lot, or how much money should the church budget include for the copier lease.*

*Once in an adult forum a devoted Christian man, embroiled in a discussion about the complicated matter of racial justice sputtered, "I want to do the right thing, but I want the right thing to be easier to figure out!" Placing our lives and our decision-making under the lordship of Jesus our King is not often easy. It is hard work and requires courage, openness, humility, and patient persistence. Yet our deepest partnership with Jesus our King happens when we do the work of his kingdom.*

*Christ the King Sunday is November 20<sup>th</sup>. Come and celebrate the King!*

*Peace,  
Pastor Tim*