

OUT OF THIS WORLD
John 18:33-37

I. A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING

- A. *Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" (John 18:33)*
- B. Christ the King.
 - 1. In 1925 Pope Pius XI wanted people to know that this is Christ's world.
 - 2. It was a declaration that despite dictators, Christ was king!
- C. The Kingship of Christ.
 - 1. Jesus' kingship was unlike any other.
 - 2. Most kings fight wars, make treaties, order people around, wear fancy clothes, and ride in limousines.
- D. The Ultimate Ordinary.
 - 1. That which does not change from day-to-day.
 - * He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
 - * He treated everyone the same.
 - 2. To be tried in use.
 - * The glitches have all been worked out by daily use. Skills become perfected.
 - * To keep going in the best of times and the worst of time.

II. A DIFFERENT KIND OF KINGDOM

- A. *Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world ... But now my kingdom is from another place." (John 18:36)*
- B. It's a Riddle to Be Solved.
 - 1. Some people believe that God has chosen to play a game with his people, and hide information about his kingdom and the final destiny of the world.
 - 2. *"Of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angles in heaven nor the Son himself." (Matthew 24:56)*
- C. It's a Goal to Achieve.
 - 1. We don't have to wait on anybody. Let's get the party started.
 - 2. It's a belief that with enough energy and organization, we can usher in the kingdom.
- D. It's a Present Reality.
 - 1. It isn't a riddle to be solved or a goal to be reached.
 - 2. The party is going on right now!
- E. It's a Future Reality.
 - 1. Out there in the distance of time something is waiting for us, some fulfillment we can't see.
 - 2. It's a promise that when all this is over and life is tucked away, there is something more, a party not yet begun.

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Brice Carter, Sarah Clark, Armand De Sollar, Mac Kerr, Laura Hart, Diane Mallard, Anne Miller ... **Friends** – Bobby Atkins, Ed Bowen, Lane Brasfield, Erin Crawford, Helen Davis, Jane Davis, Ruby Dudley, Kenny Frazee, Joanna Grathwell, Kathy Greer, Charles Hamilton, Jean Hansford, Bonnie Hart, Jim Hixon, Benette Hobday, Tabitha Kirkpatrick, Linda Lindner, Judy Malaquias, Macy Morgan, Shirley Rice, Dustin Salter, Wanda Savage, Jennie Stafford, Peyton Vickery ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Patti Greene and family** in the death of her mother, **Mary Moody**, who died on Thursday, November 16.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty God, the tides of the spirit do run in and out, but the best news we know is that you are with us through it all. Here in worship, we feel that presence most closely, and we would be quiet for a moment now, and listen to your voice.

We remember so many moments when the light was full and the joy complete. Most of those times came because someone special touched our lives with caring. Hear our prayer of thanksgiving for those high moments, and those special persons. *(Pray silently)*

We remember times when the tide was out, and we felt lost in our despair. Now help us remember those times clearly enough to identify what got us there, some thoughtless word, or self-centered action, and help us learn from that. *(Pray silently)*

O Lord, the world aches around us, and so do people who are hungry and homeless. In this holy setting, increase our compassion, and show us ways to put compassion to work in some specific way this week, for this is our prayer in the name of him who came into human life, and brought meaning and hope, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (to be sung): **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

JOHN 18:33-37

Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

December 3	<i>Can You Read the Signs</i> First Sunday of Advent	Luke 21:25-36
December 10	<i>Who Can Endure His Coming?</i> Second Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3:1-4
December 17	<i>The Search for Meaning</i> Third Sunday of Advent	Philippians 4:1-9
December 24	<i>Don't Forget to Remember Me</i> Fourth Sunday of Advent	Luke 2:1-20
December 31	<i>Annetta Camp to Preach</i>	

On the Radio (1450 AM):

December 3	<i>God's Great Desire</i>	Psalms 23
December 10	<i>Joy in the Midst of the Mess</i>	Matthew 1:18-25
December 17	<i>A Child Called Laughter</i>	Genesis 21:1-6
December 24	<i>A Child of Mystery</i>	Luke 2:8-20
December 31	<i>New Year Under Construction</i>	Matthew 7:24-27