

“Christ is the King!”

By Cathy Love

November 24, 2024

Readings:

Psalms 135:1-7,13-21

John 18:33-37

Prayer for Understanding

Let's pray.

O God, your thoughts are not our thoughts, your ways are not our ways.

By your Word and Spirit, open our minds and hearts to your truth.

By that truth, may our thoughts and ways become a greater reflection of yours. Amen.

This message is a dual topic message for you today!

First a brief history lesson. Today is actually the last Sunday of the Church's calendar year. Next week, we start with a new calendar year with the first Sunday of Advent. Today is Christ the King Sunday.

Christ the King Sunday was instituted by Pope Pius XI (11) in 1925 with the first celebration in 1926.

While it was originally designated to occur in late October, Pope St. Paul VI (6) changed it to the last Sunday in the liturgical year. The choice of the last

Sunday in the liturgical calendar is said to correspond with to the end of history when Christ returns as King. This feast of Christ the King was instituted in response to an increase in secularism and atheism. Christ the King was - and is – the answer to all human problems.

There are many passages in the New Testament that refer to Jesus as King. Although I will give you a few of them, I encourage you to research on your own other references to Christ as the King in the Bible.

Mathew 27:11 says “Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’” Jesus said, ‘You have said so.’”

1Timothy 1:17 says “To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen”

Revelation 19:6 says “On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed King of kings and Lord of lords.”

As you can see, the title of King was not given to an earthly king nor does the title given to Jesus tie him to earth alone. Christ’s kingdom is in heaven. So on Christ the King Sunday, we recognize the higher authority of Christ.

The November 19, 2018 message from A Sermon for Every Sunday, featured Dr. Jim Somerville

Pastor of Richmond's first Baptist Church. Dr Somerville reminds us Jesus was Lord when we went to bed last night and he was Lord when we got up this morning. Nobody elected him king, He didn't have to run for office, the world didn't give Him his Kingship, his Father in heaven gave him his kingship and no power on earth can take it away. Now to switch the focus a bit, today, you get a chance to participate for a brief time in the message. Now, I am going to visit different areas of the sanctuary and we are going to look at crosses. The last message I gave with the cross as the topic came to reality because I saw a cross in the window **over here** and had no idea how long it had been there or who put it there. This has remained a mystery but it gave me the idea for a message. After the message, some pigeons made their home on the window sill and one day, the cross was gone. Well, I mentioned it and the next thing I knew, not one but two crosses appeared. When I was talking about the cross, many people could not see it and had no idea what I was referring to. But just because they couldn't see it didn't mean it didn't exist! So my challenge is this: Let's find the crosses in this church. Some of them will only be visible to some people and some crosses will be in plain

sight, as that other cross was even though I had no idea it was there or for how long it existed.

As we look for the crosses, I will ask our tech team to show the pictures so those who are on Zoom or those sitting in a different area can see what the crosses look like.

Let's start with the music team. How many crosses do you see **looking out** at the congregation?

 2 on the banner on the balcony,



 one on communion table,



__ two in the window,

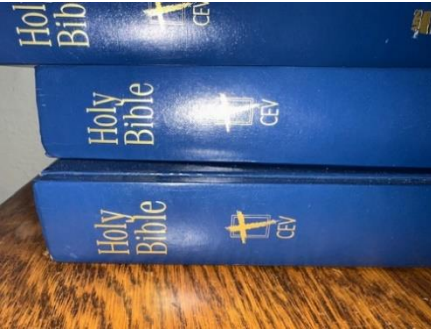


__ crosses on the window ledge lining both sides of the sanctuary.



Let's go to the sections of the seating area.

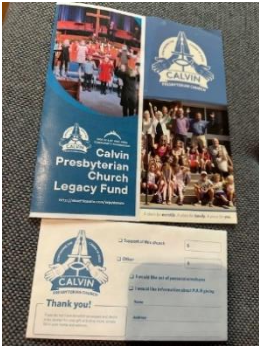
__ bibles front and side Did you notice the cross is perfectly displayed between the slats of the pew holders?



__ embossed on the hymn books



__pamphlets and the offering envelope all have a cross on them



Front of church if I stand facing the music team,
__On the chair backs,



__bottom of communion table,
__on the communion table as we noticed before



__ on the communion table,



__ on the lectern and



__the Christ candle



__If I had let the musicians turn around, they would see the three behind them – one on the floor and one hanging from the ceiling and one on the baptismal font. – I guess for them, the part of Isaiah 52:12 which says “For the Lord will go ahead of you; yes, the God of Isreal will project you from behind” rings true literally.



Now if you were sitting up in the balcony
__ lights which some of us in the lower level may
not have noticed,



__ the crosses on the window ledge which we have
already spoken of



__ the ones at the front of the church which we just
reviewed.



__If you are sitting near the back, did you notice the ones on the offertory box?



__Did you notice the one in the narthex as soon as you come in the door? If not, check it out!



I am going to ask that we wait before moving to the next photo.

__Did you ever notice the Sanctuary is in the shape of a cross? Frances shared with me that this is due to the reformation when symbols such as crucifix and the unadorned crosses were removed from Churches but they found a way to put the cross in the Church.

Now if we could put up the last photo. This one is not in the sanctuary but I liked it.



Although I looked hard, maybe I missed some crosses too.

Now let's talk about what we just found for a minute. Some of these crosses are not visible for some of you but are so clearly visible to others. Sitting up here, I don't see the items in the pew holders or the offering box. Those of you facing the front of the sanctuary see clearly the crosses behind me.

We don't all see the same crosses and some of us see the same crosses but not from the same perspective. We are all on a journey to the cross but we are not the same journey. We all have the same instruction book – the Bible and the same guide so if you ever falter, you know where to turn. To the Bible and to God in prayer.

The cross is a constant reminder of God's presence and Christ's sacrifice. Jesus holds the highest position of true king. Not earthly king of

earthly nations but King of all. When we leave the sanctuary, what do you carry to help you remember? God's love is everywhere we look in the world he created.

Reverend Frances shared with me a poem called
The Cross in My Pocket by Verna Mae Thomas

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful

For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life
If only I'll let him be.

To close out this message, I would like to have us listen to the song "The Cross" by Anne Wilson and Chris Tomlin. This song acknowledges the pain we often feel as we struggle with feelings of shame but it reminds us that our worth is not defined by our mistakes but by the love and sacrifice of Jesus. We are reminded of the transformative power of faith with its repeated invitation to come home to the cross.

[Anne Wilson, Chris Tomlin - The Cross \(Official Lyric Video\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erxFK2KX3Og)

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Let's pray. Thank you God for showing us the way
and giving us the many reminders of our King,
Jesus. Amen