

# Sermon Handout: Christ the King

**Text:** Revelation 1:4b–8 (NIV)

**Date:** November 10, 2024

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## Key Themes from Revelation 1:4b-8

### 1. Christ's Eternal Kingship (v. 4b–5)

- Jesus is the "ruler of the kings of the earth," transcending all political systems and human boundaries.
- His reign is eternal, unshaken by time, culture, or governments.
- Earthly leaders have limits, but Christ's authority is rooted in the righteousness, love, and justice of God.

*Reflection:* In a world full of uncertainty and division, Christ's kingship provides stability and hope. No election or political leader can replace the peace found in His eternal rule.

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### 2. The Faithful Witness, Firstborn, and Ruler (v. 5)

- **Faithful Witness:** Jesus perfectly reflected God's truth and love through His life and suffering.
- **Firstborn of the Dead:** His resurrection guarantees victory over death and empowers us to live transformed lives now.
- **Ruler of Kings:** All powers and nations are subject to His reign.

*Reflection:* Jesus' redemptive work isn't just for the future; it changes how we live today. His power and love are unmatched, shaping how we respond to challenges and calling us to holiness.

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### 3. Made into a Kingdom of Priests (v. 6)

- Believers are called to be more than followers—together, we are a kingdom and priests, active participants in God's work.
- We reflect Christ's love, compassion, and justice, not through dominance, but humble service.
- As Methodists, we believe in the power of grace to save, transform, and equip us to serve.

*Reflection:* Living as a kingdom of priests means embodying Christ's character in every interaction and decision, with loyalty to Him above all earthly agendas.

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#### **4. The Coming of Christ (v. 7)**

- Christ's return will be undeniable to all—those who love Him and even those who opposed Him.
- His coming represents universal accountability and ultimate justice.
- For Christians, this is a moment of hope, not fear, as it marks the fulfillment of God's plan: a world free of sin, suffering, and division.

*Reflection:* While we await His return, we are called to act as ambassadors of His kingdom, working for reconciliation and justice in the world now.

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#### **5. God's Sovereignty (v. 8)**

- "I am the Alpha and the Omega": God is the beginning and the end, the source of all creation and its completion.
- His power is both absolute and loving, offering a foundation of hope in a shifting world.
- Christ's kingdom is unshakable; His purposes never fail.

*Reflection:* Trust in Christ's sovereignty allows us to live with hope, knowing His kingdom will prevail regardless of earthly uncertainties.

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### **Application for Today**

#### **Living Under Christ's Rule**

- Place your trust in Jesus above all human leaders or systems.
- Reflect His love, mercy, and justice in every aspect of your life.
- Remember your identity is rooted in God's kingdom, not in politics, affiliations, or status.

#### **Living as a Kingdom of Priests**

- Embrace your role as an active participant in God's work.
  - Serve others with humility, embodying Christ's character.
  - Advocate for justice and truth, grounded in grace and compassion.
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### **Final Thought**

During this election season and beyond, remember that Christ is our true King. His rule surpasses every human system, and His purposes are eternal. Let us live as citizens of His kingdom, reflecting His love and light in all we do, as we anticipate the day His reign is fully realized.

**Closing Verse:** *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”* (Revelation 1:8)