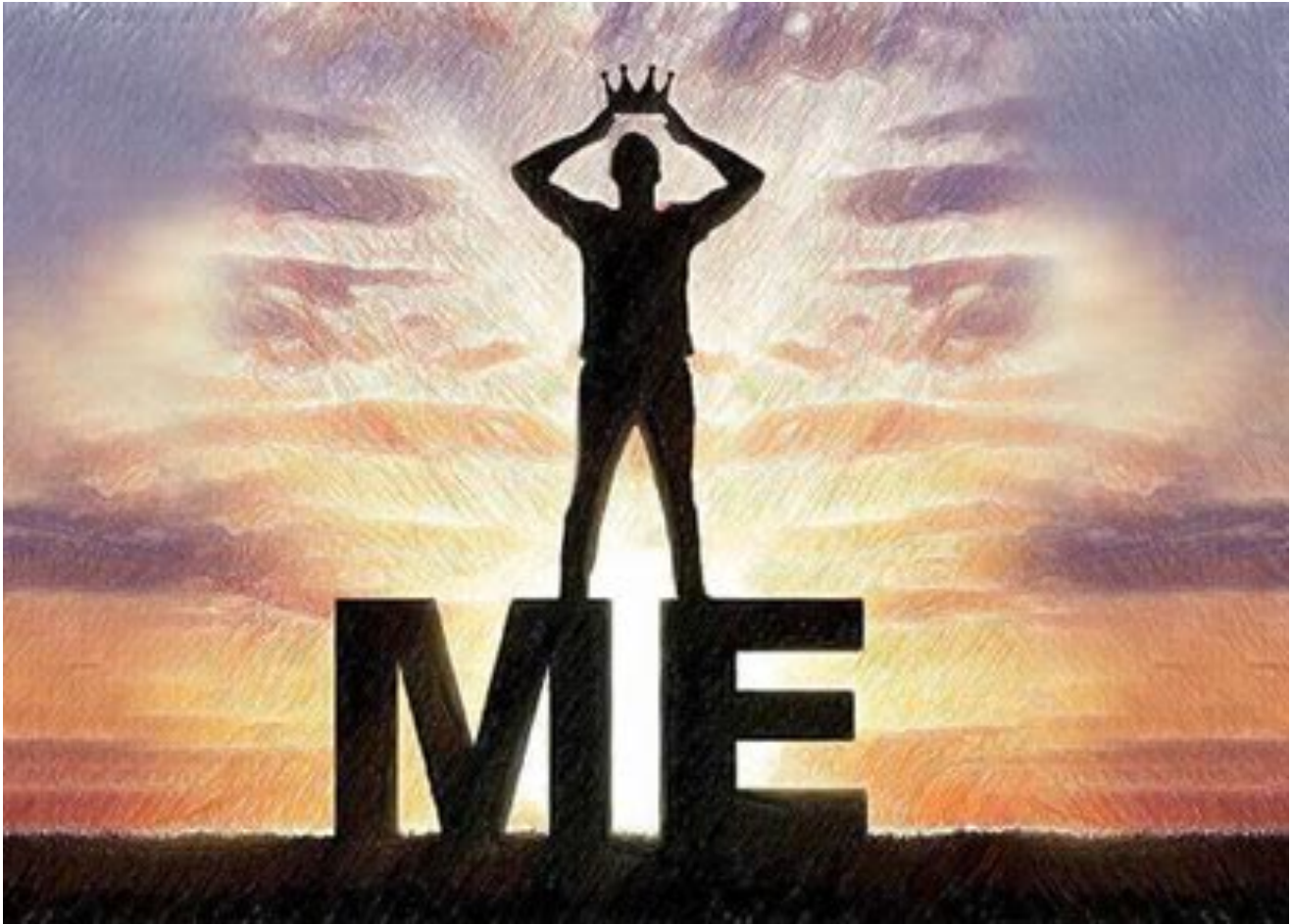

WORSHIP AT HOME

Prelude



The people demanded
a King like their
neighboring nations

Opening Hymn: We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessings; he chastens and hastens his will to make know. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Welcome

Jesus says, Look, I am with you always.

How is God with us?

Look in our suffering. **The Lord is with us offering mercy!**

Look in our death to the power of sin. **The Lord is with us offering grace.**

Look in our hearts, souls, and minds. **The Lord is with us eternally.**

Look in our daily task. **The Lord is with us just as Promised.**



Special Music

Prayer

Lord, when change visits our lives we often cling to selfishness.



Samuel's name means "I listen to hear God." Pray, then, like Samuel!

ROBERT

In the name of Joel and Abijah we defend ourselves.

The name Joel means "Jehovah is God." **We believe the Lord is God, creator of heaven and earth.**

The name Abijah means "Jehovah is my Father." **We pray, "Our Father in Heaven..."**

Prayer is the practice of denying selfish-self to take up our cross, receive God's mercy, live in God's grace, and love our neighbors as Jesus loves us.

While we believe; we place our faith in mortals. **When shall we let God be our judge? When shall we let God be our**

King?

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of Heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Scripture: I Samuel 8

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders.^[a] **2** The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. **3** But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. **5** They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead^[b] us, such as all the other nations have."

6 But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. **7** And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. **8** As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. **9** Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."

10 Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. **11** He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. **12** Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. **13** He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. **14** He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. **15** He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. **16** Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle^[c] and donkeys he will take for his own use. **17** He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. **18** When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. **20** Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

Instrumental Meditation

Be Still.

Be still and know.

Be still and know I am.

Be still and know I am with you...as love, peace, patience...

Message: Clinging to Selishness

I contend that The Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is Judgement. Samuel was the last Judge of Israel! Samuel feared change as much as us. I hear God telling Samuel that the root of his fear is selfishness.

We have seen how Cain's judgment caused him to "miss the mark". We have listened to God telling Moses that every human task contains God's purpose. Every task, including judgement, is an opportunity to experience God With us!!! We often forget that Moses delivered the Israelites from bondage and led them on a three day journey to worship God. Again, I contend that Worship = Human Task + God's Purpose.

Like Cain, the Israelites missed the mark. They chose the task of keeping the Law. They refused to turn to God when they violated the Law. They missed the mark of experiencing God with them in Mercy, abounding in Grace, and overflowing with unconditional Love.

God patiently gave them a human judge who, like Moses, would turn from sin to listen to God's voice and keep the covenant through mercy! Samuel knew to look and listen for God with him. Yet, Samuel was blinded by his task. He took it personal when God's children demanded he give them a King like their neighboring nations.

Listen to God with Samuel offering him mercy!

But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. **7** And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; **it is not you they have rejected**, but they have rejected me as their king. **8** As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you.

In Sunday school a similar conversation is taking place. Covid-19 restrictions forced the church to change. Some of us want to return to our pre-Covid-19 traditions, fellowship, and rituals. Others look back at our pre-COVID -19 life and remember years of declining attendance, programmatic weariness, meetings for the sake of meetings, relentless attention to finances, and fear "they" will close our church.

Like the Israelites we prefer to return to the comfort of yesterday’s bondage. To this very day we appoint Judges, crown Kings, and elect Presidents. They do serve our purpose. They give us someone to blame for our suffering.

In the name of Joel and Abijah we defend ourselves. The name Joel means “Jehovah is God.” We also believe the Lord is God, creator of heaven and earth. The name Abijah means “Jehovah is my Father.” We pray, “Our Father in Heaven...” While we believe; we place our faith in mortals. When shall we let God be our judge? When shall we let God be our King?

The name Samuel means “I listen to hear God.” The following chart is what God told Samuel to tell Israel. In the name of Samuel, the one who prays to listen and hear God’s voice, I ask that we let God be our Judge, to let Christ Jesus be our King, and let the Holy Spirit deliver us from the temptation of Cain. Amen.

A Human King will claim his Rights	Jesus Reveals God’s Nature, righteousness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take your sons and make them serve him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives us Jesus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will make them commanders of 1000s and 50s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus makes us sons and daughters of God through His Suffering, Death, and Resurrection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will make them Plow and reap, and make weapons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus teaches God’s children to be Peacemakers who bless people who curse them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He perfumes sin with God’s Mercy. He eats with sinners at God’s table of Grace. In breaking the baker’s bread we remember Jesus is with us in our suffering.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take you best land, vineyards, and orchards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He leads us into the Kingdom of Heaven where God’s will is done here on earth. He turns water into wine, there is joy in the Lord. He makes us the Fruit of the Tree of Life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take a tenth of everything you own. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He gives us His Spirit as the first fruits of our inheritance — eternal Life.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
On the third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Tithes and Offering

Benediction

Postlude