

Christ Church, Ipswich
Christ the King Sunday Worship
Sunday 26th November 2023
Minister: Revd Neil Coulson
Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

Hello, I hope all is well. Let us worship God together:

Opening Reading Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
 Serve the Lord with gladness;
 come into his presence with singing.
 Know that the Lord is God.
 It is he who made us, and we are his;
 we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
 and his courts with praise.
 Give thanks to him; bless his name.
 For the Lord is good;
 his steadfast love endures forever
 and his faithfulness to all generations.

A gathering prayer

Good shepherd,
 we come before you as we are,
 each one of us a unique individual.
 We ask you to mould us into your image,
 and help us to be 'good sheep', your sheep.
 We ask this of you, our Lord and shepherd. **Amen.**

BPW 29 All hail the power of Jesus' name!

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name!
 let angels prostrate fall;
 bring forth the royal diadem,
 and crown Him Lord of all.

2 Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,
 who from His altar call;
 extol the stem of Jesse's rod,
 and crown Him Lord of all.

3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
 a remnant weak and small,
 hail Him who saves you by His grace,
 and crown Him Lord of all.

4 You Gentile sinners, ne'er forget
 the wormwood and the gall;
 go, spread your trophies at his feet,
 and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let every kindred, every tribe,
 on this terrestrial ball,
 to Him all majesty ascribe,
 and crown Him Lord of all.

6 O that with yonder sacred throng
 we at His feet may fall,
 join in the everlasting song,
 and crown Him Lord of all!

Edward Perronet (1726—92)
 John Rippon (1751 — 1836)

A prayer of adoration

Gracious and loving God,
 we are your people,
 we find ourselves loved and free.
 We see the wonder of your love all around us, each and every day.
 We see your love in relationships, in creation, in kind acts and in each other.
 We are blessed by you in so many ways.
 We experience your love in our lives,
 your hope in our hearts and your inspiration in people, situations and places around us.
 We come before you and we worship you as parent, sibling, confidante,
 protector, sustainer, enabler and holy, divine love.
 We are humbled by all you have been, are and will be in this world and in our lives.
Pause

Yet we still mess up, we still get it wrong, and we still fail,
 often despite our best attempts and efforts. Amen

A prayer of confession

We come with our prayers to give ourselves time to consider where we have got things wrong, where we have abused our positions of power, where we have failed to speak out for those on the margins, where we have fallen short on the way.

In a moment of quiet, let us all to hold before God the things for which we are sorry. The personal, relational, community and worldwide situations that we have not challenged or questioned or not responded to in a more loving and compassionate way. The things we have done or left undone that would have helped others or made a difference for good. The stuff we have avoided or ignored because it felt too much.
pause

Gracious God, these words we offer, seeking to make amends and to change.
 But knowing that, even if we continue to fall short, we are loved. Amen.

An assurance of forgiveness

Jesus reassures us that we are forgiven.
 Let us hear his words: Come to me all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
 We claim that rest and seek to forgive ourselves and forgive others.
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Yours is the earth and all in it.
 The valleys, mountains, seas and spray;
 the land, the pastures, the trees and fauna.
 All around us, we see stories of your bounty,
 your exuberant goodness, your flourishing provision.
 You have made us to live here,
 nurtured by this earth, and by work.
 We find joy in this vocation, to be your people,
 living, working, resting, supporting.
 We thank you for the gifts of living,
 and for these gifts of bounty all around us. **Amen.**

We wrap up all these prayers in the words that Jesus gave us, saying: Our Father...

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk, followed by a prayer:

Jesus, we worship you, the best king of all.

Help us to be more like you.

When we could be bossy, or helpful and encouraging,

help us to be more like you.

When we only want to take and not to give,

help us to be more like you.

When we expect people to run round after us,

help us to be more like you.

As you are the best kind of king,

help us to be more like you:

a loving, caring, helping and generous people

in all we are and in all we do. **Amen.**

BPW 318 Sing we the King who is coming to reign

1 Sing we the King who is coming to reign,
glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain;
life and salvation His empire shall bring,
joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

Come, let us sing: praise to our King.

Jesus our King, Jesus our King:

this is our song, who to Jesus belong:

glory to Jesus, to Jesus our King.

2 All men shall dwell in His marvellous light,
races long severed His love shall unite;
justice and truth from His sceptre shall spring,
wrong shall be ended when Jesus is King.

3 All shall be well in His kingdom of peace,
freedom shall flourish and wisdom increase;
foe shall be friend when His triumph we sing,
sword shall be sickle when Jesus is King.

4 Souls shall be saved from the burden of sin;
doubt shall not darken His witness within;
hell hath no terrors, and death hath no sting;
love is victorious, when Jesus is King.

5 Kingdom of Christ, for thy coming we pray,
hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day;
when this new song Thy creation shall sing,
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.

Charles Silvester Horne (1865–1914)

Our children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

OT Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

God the True Shepherd

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Epistle Reading**Ephesians 1:15-23***Paul's Prayer*

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R&S 571 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice

1 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
tell all the earth he is your choice:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 O magnify the Lord, and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days:

3 Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great name,
with the same faith his word proclaim:

4 Let Love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light:

5 So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole Church at last be one:

G. K. A. Bell (1883-1958)

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:31-46*The Judgement of the Nations*

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, ⁴¹ you did it to me." ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Reflection*A moment for personal reflection*

BPW 58 Meekness and Majesty

1 Meekness and majesty,
manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony,
the man who is God:
Lord of eternity
dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility
and washes our feet.

*O what a mystery,
meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
this is your God!*

2 Father's pure radiance,
perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience
to death on a cross:
suffering to give us life,
conquering through sacrifice;
and, as they crucify,
prays, 'Father, forgive.'

3 Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity,
stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity
to the heights of His throne.

Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music

Our prayers of intercession

Dear Lord, king of glory, we lift our intercessions before your throne.

We plead for your world. Your heart must break at what you see today; lands ravaged by war, torn apart by evil actions. We pray against dark intentions and hardened hearts.

Dear Lord, king of glory, soften hearts. Open hearts and minds to your light of love.

Lord, we pray for hostilities to cease in Ukraine, between Israel and Gaza and in all lands where unrest is rife. We pray for all civilians caught up in atrocities. Like the newborn babies brought safely out of Gaza, we pray too for the safe release of all hostages. We pray for aid to be allowed through to reach those in dire need.

Dear Lord, king of glory, rule over your world. Bring peace and restoration.

We pray for all Christians affected by tension and violence because of their faith. We pray for Jews in this country who are being targeted because of the war between Israel and Gaza.

Dear Lord, king of glory, may your people be rooted and established in the safety of your love.

We pray for governments the world over. Many speak promises yet their actions are corrupted by the lust for power and greed. We pray for stability within our own government and the fulfilment of promises made. May all in parliament look to serve the people and not their own importance.

Dear Lord, king of glory, may your truth and justice rule over all.

We pray for churches throughout the land to rise and abide by your Word. Bring leaders to the forefront who will not waver from your truth and lead accordingly. We pray for your children who have lost their way, succumbing to worldly influences. Good shepherd, bring the lost sheep back to the fold.

Dear Lord, king of glory, restore the lost. Guide us all on your path by the true light of your love.

We pray for all who are suffering; the lonely, the sick, the abused. We pray for the NHS, for community nursing and for all those whose health is deteriorating as a result of lengthy waiting lists. We pray for those suffering mental health issues who are struggling to find help due to lack of resources. You are always there to listen and call upon, Lord. Help those in turmoil to find their way to you. Bring into their lives people who will walk with them in the dark times and accompany them to greener pastures.

Dear Lord, king of glory, bring your healing to the broken and mend lives.

We pray for our neighbourhoods: for rough sleepers in need of a home. For the poor needing help with finances and food. For children in need of loving care and a safe place to call home. For our streets where knife crime is growing and 'no go' areas exist for many.

Dear Lord, king of glory, open eyes to see and respond to the needs of others. Help match actions to words. Give us boldness to act.

We pray for those on our hearts who are in need at this time. *A moment of silence.*

Dear Lord, king of glory, pour out your loving mercy and grace we pray. Amen.

Hymn Hail Redeemer, King divine!

1 Hail Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.

*Angels, saints and nations sing:
"Praised be Jesus Christ, our King;
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary!"*

2 King, whose name creation thrills,
rule our minds, our hearts, our wills,
till in peace, each nation rings
with thy praises, King of kings.

3 King most holy, King of truth,
guard the lowly, guide the youth;
Christ the King of glory bright,
be to us eternal light.

4 Shepherd-king, o'er mountains steep,
homeward bring the wandering sheep;
shelter in one royal fold
states and kingdom, new and old.

5 Sing with joy in ev'ry home:
"Christ our King, thy kingdom come!
To the King of ages, then,
honour, glory, love: Amen!"

Patrick Brennan (1877-1952)

A sending out prayer

Let us go out as Christ's hands and feet,
sowing seeds of harmony and community,
challenging injustice and promoting peace,
dancing together in the eternal dance of humanity,
united by the love of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Blessing

And may the love of God
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
uphold, enable and bless us,
along with those we love,
now and forever, Amen.

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

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