

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 24th November 2024
Family Worship – Christ the King
Minister: The Revd Neil Coulson
Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

Hello, I hope you are well. Let us worship God together:

Call to worship

We come today to acknowledge Christ as King.
 His throne is a cross, and he reigns from high heaven.
 Beauty and holiness are the marks of his kingdom.
 He is the face of God revealed in human form.
 Let us keep our eyes fixed on him:
 King Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life.

A gathering prayer

Jesus our King: we come to honour you.
 You have promised to meet with us.
 You have called us to come, so here we are.
 To listen to your heart, to look for your path,
 to think about your truth, and to learn about your love.
 King of our hearts meet with us here, wherever here is Amen

A prayer of approach

Lord Jesus,
 yours is the picture we will put in the frame of our lives;
 yours are the promises we will trust and believe;
 yours is the kingdom we will pray for;
 you are the king we will serve faithfully,
 with all our heart and mind and strength,
 for you are the king who loves and calls us.
 Alleluia! **Amen.**

R&S 269 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
 does his successive journeys run;
 his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
 till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 For him shall endless prayer be made,
 and praises throng to crown his head;
 his name like sweet perfume shall rise
 with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
 dwell on his love with sweetest song,
 and infant voices shall proclaim
 their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
 the prisoners leaps to lose their chains;
 the weary find eternal rest,
 and all who suffer want are blessed.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
 peculiar honours to our King;
 angels descend with songs again,
 and earth repeat the loud Amen.

Psalm 72:12-19
 Isaac Watts (1674-1748) altd.

A prayer of adoration

God of mystery and magnificence, we see you as our king.
 We read of visions of your throne, flaming and ethereal.
 You are beyond our imagining,
 beyond our dreams and visions and wildest hopes.
 You are in us and with us and among us.
 You are all we could imagine and wish for and more.
 You are our God, our king of all creation. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Forgive us, Lord,
 when we accept the world's realities and uncritically call them truth;
 when we look with eyes open to the temporal, but closed to the eternal;
 when we see only difficulties while you see opportunities;
 when we side with power and overlook the vulnerable;
 when we divorce heaven and earth.
 Forgive us, and help us
 to see clearly, to act wisely and to serve lovingly.
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Lord, amend what we are,
 direct what we shall be,
 so that we may delight in your wisdom
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your holy name.
 Through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God, your image is present in each one of us.
 When we confess our sins,
 you are always there to forgive us.
 We stand now, humbly in your presence, completely forgiven.
 And we thank you and praise your holy name. **Amen.**

A prayer of thanksgiving

For the vastness of your being, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise.
 For your promise to be with us always, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise.
 For the giving of your truth, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise.
 For your voice that calls us, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise.
 For the life of Jesus, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise.
 For the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise.
 For the promise of your kingdom, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise.
 For the promise of your eternal welcome, our God and king:
we give you thanks and praise. 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)

The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

OT Reading: Daniel 7:9-10 13-14 (OT page 756)

Judgement before the Ancient One

9 As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

10 A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened.

13 As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

14 To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

NT Reading Revelation 1:4b-8 (NT page 227)

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
 every eye will see him,
 even those who pierced him;
 and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
 So it is to be. Amen.

⁸'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel Reading John 18:33-37

(NT page 105)

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' ³⁴Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' ³⁵Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' ³⁶Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' ³⁷Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

R&S 661 *How shall I sing that majesty*

1 How shall I sing that majesty
 which angels do admire?
 Let dust in dust and silence lie;
 sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
 Thousands of thousands stand around
 thy throne, O God most high;
 ten thousand times ten thousand sound
 thy praise; but who am I?

2 Thy brightness unto them appears,
 while I thy footsteps trace;
 a sound of God comes to my ears;
 but they behold thy face:
 I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
 with all my fire and light;
 yet when thou dost accept their gold,
 Lord, treasure up my mite.

3 Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
 inflame it with love's fire,
 then shall I sing and take my part
 with that celestial choir.
 They sing, because thou art their Sun;
 Lord, send a beam on me;
 for where heaven is but once begun,
 there alleluias be.

4 How great a being, Lord, is thine,
 which doth all beings keep!
 Thy knowledge is the only line
 to sound so vast a deep:
 thou art a sea without a shore,
 a sun without a sphere;
 thy time is now and evermore,
 thy place is everywhere.

John Mason (1646-94)*

A reflection on today's readings

A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays the organ

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)

Our prayers of intercession

Gracious God; we pray for the world you love.

We pray for kings and queens,
and prime ministers and presidents and all earthly rulers:
the loyal and compassionate, the trustworthy and honest,
the wise and the considerate.
Give them the strength to continue in wisdom.

We pray also for leaders who fall short of these high ideals,
for those who forget who they are meant to be protecting and supporting,
give them ears to hear the voices of those they have power over
and hearts to listen in compassion.

We pray for those who make big decisions,
doctors and teachers, nurses and aid workers, parents and police.
Help them to listen to the needs of others.

We pray for all those who have to live with the decisions of others.
The powerless, the landless and the disempowered.
We pray for our communities, for less division and more cooperation;
less anger and more understanding,
we ask that you show us how to be the best neighbour that we can be.

We pray for our families for all the love we find there,
and for grace and forgiveness when things get hard.

We pray for ourselves, you know when we fall short of being the best we can be,
you know when we find it hard to maintain our boundaries,
and when we fail in our compassion.

You know the things that keep us awake at night and the things we look forward to.
Guide and protect us dear King.
Help us to be the good subjects of your Kingdom.

All these things we pray about with hope and trust,
in the name of Jesus who loves us and who left us these words, Our Father...

The Lord's Prayer

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

Christ our King,
as we go from this place,
assure us of your presence with us –
for we belong to you.
Help us to look for truth in all places,
to seek and listen to your voice,
and to use your power to serve.
Bring heaven to earth and reign in our lives.
We pray in your name, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May God the Father who loves you,
Jesus the King who reigns over you,
and God the Spirit who empowers you,
be with you and those you love and pray for,
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.**