

Christ the King - Sunday 22nd November

Opening Antiphon

At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true;
crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel

Call to worship:

Let us worship God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of Preparation:

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may see your glory.

Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

Penitential Rite

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The kingdom is yours,
but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The power is yours,
but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

The glory is yours,
but we fall short of the glory of God:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gloria for today

**Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic Name above all other names,
The highest heaven and earth proclaim
That Jesus is our God.**

**Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
Let all creation stand and sing
That Jesus is our God.**

**Jesus is the Father's splendour;
Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
And every eye at last shall see
That Jesus is our God.**

**We will glorify, We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify, We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.**

Philip Lawson Johnston CCLI SONG #. 871991

Collect

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory. **Amen.**

1st Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)

Thanksgiving and Prayer

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, **16** I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus

Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response:

Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me!
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me!
Captivate my heart
Let your kingdom come!
Establish now your throne
Let your will be done!
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me!

Chris Bowater. CCLI Song No: 20704

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia. You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father. Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV). The Sheep and the Goats

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42** For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes

and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Preacher - Reader Jenny Dann

Today is one of those pivotal days in the Church's calendar - one that is both an ending and a beginning. As the last Sunday before Advent it's an ending - a glorious climax - to the story of God's salvation of the world that we've been unfolding since last Advent. The story culminates in the ultimate truth revealed by God - that Jesus Christ is King. He who lived among us, died for us, rose again and ascended, is the One who has power and authority over all things everywhere, for all eternity. The Son of Man will come as King, and the secrets of all hearts will be laid bare.

That's the ending, the promised fulfilment. But we're not there yet. On the way God has work to do: new visions to share, new tasks of faith to call us to. The new Church year begins next week, and we need inspiration - literally. We need to pray - as in the Letter to the Ephesians - that God will give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation; that we will be enlightened by hope; and that the power of Christ's Resurrection will give us ongoing strength. We need 'Stir-up Sunday' - that's the other name for today.

Why Stir-up Sunday? Well, the name comes from the traditional Collect of the Day: 'Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded.' But the Church is traditionally very good at combining the liturgical and the practical - so Stir-up Sunday became the day when households stirred up their Christmas puddings. Each member of the family in turn would have a stir and make a wish.

This year for Stir-up Sunday, we are invited to pause for prayer, this evening and tomorrow, asking God to stir up the fruits of the Spirit in his Church at this most challenging time; that God will strengthen and renew us in our work as heralds of the gospel of Christ.

'Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people.' Here's a clear difference between human kingdoms and the Kingdom of God in Christ. Most human power structures don't want any stirring up, thank you very much! They prefer to keep people under control, following designated lines of belief and behaviour. The Kingdom of God, the rule of Christ the King, is very different! God's Kingdom is a place of creativity and newness, of joyful freedom, where we actually pray for lots of stirring up - the stirring up of God's Spirit in everyone, old and young, weak and strong. Everyone in God's family gets the opportunity to 'have a stir and make a wish' - or rather, a prayer - a prayer for something new and better - hope for the world; peace; light and truth as Jesus comes to reign in hearts and lives.

Stir us up, O Lord, for change is coming - something new is coming - the King is coming. And when the Spirit stirs us up,

it's not a stirring of discontent, or anger, or rebellion: it's a stirring of mutual understanding, of love and generosity, of reaching out to others and longing for God's healing power in their lives. It's a desire for the putting right of all that is wrong, and the creating of new and righteous ideas and actions. When the Spirit stirs us up, there is plenteous fruit - such as we see in the caring, compassionate responses of those 'sheep' in Matthew's gospel story. In this story we are presented with a stark contrast, a clear choice. Do we want to be stirred up by God's Spirit, or remain untouched and unmoved by the world's pain? Do we want to live by the values of our Servant King, or by other, selfish values? On our own we may not always make the right choices, or even see the needs that are there. Sometimes we may not know our own motives. So we really do need to pray for God to stir us up. We pray for ourselves and for one another, for the Church and for the world, for our families and our communities, that God may indeed give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, that we may know the hope he has called us to, and know his incomparably great power in our lives, the power of Christ's Resurrection that transforms everything and opens the way to establishing the Kingdom of God.

Maybe you're feeling tired and weary with all that's happened this year? I know I am. Let's look up, and see the might and majesty of God in Christ; and let's ask for the Holy Spirit to stir us up, in preparation for all the new beginnings God may have in store for us. May God give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to love as he loves us. Amen.

Response

Let there be love shared among us

**Let there be love in our eyes
May now Your love sweep this nation.
Cause us O Lord to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly love that is real,
Let there be love shared among us,
Let there be love.**

**... Cause *us* O Lord to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly love that is real,
Let there be love shared among us,
Let there be love.**

Dave Bilbrough CCLI SONG #.35483

Our Declaration of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

cf Philipians 2.6-11

Intercessions: led for us by Reader Keith Callard.

Let us with confidence present our prayers to the throne of grace.

We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.
May your kingdom come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign, that it may extend your welcome to people of every race and background.
May your kingdom come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians of every denomination, that together we may share in your mission of love
May your kingdom come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have the courage to endure.
May your kingdom come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and in truth.
May your kingdom come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We rejoice O Lord in your saving power.
We remember before you, all who are ill at home or in hospital, all who are struggling in body mind or spirit.

We ask your blessing on all who have a difficult week ahead and hard decisions to face, and those who feel they have little or no freedom.

We put our trust in you and in the promise of the fullness of your kingdom. We give thanks for the lives of our loved ones who have died and are now at peace with you. We pray that we may share with them the joys of your eternal Kingdom.

Loving God,
you have taught us that the power of the heart
is greater than the power of wealth and might.
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;
to him be glory and power for ever.

Amen.

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

Notices and Birthdays

The BLESSING and SENDING

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

And the blessing

Final acclamation: Hymn of the day

**Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save;**

**His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified;
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends their burning eye
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
And round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of glory now extend
Their fragrance ever sweet**

**Crown him the Lord of years,
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.**

Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring

Sending

Go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.

Response

**Glory to God,
whose power, at work among us,
can do infinitely more
than all we can ask or imagine;
to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

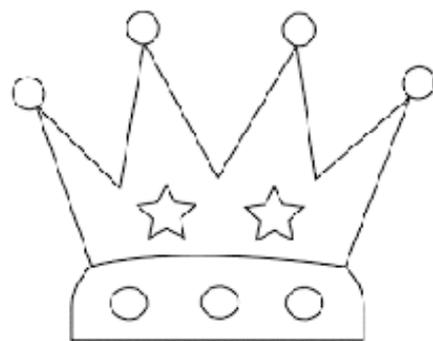
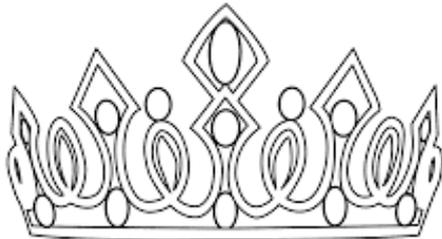
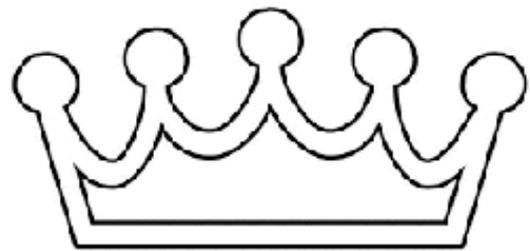
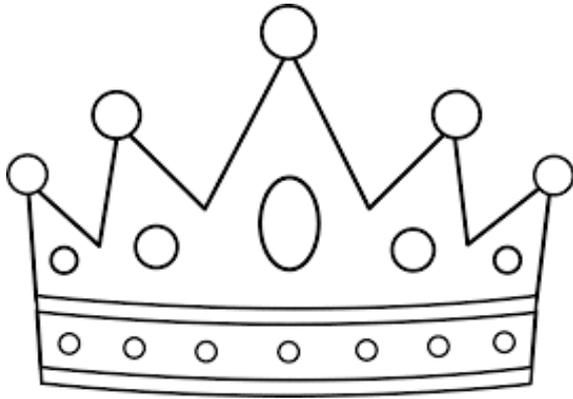
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Christ The King

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Crowns for King Jesus?



Your own idea?