

***Christ Church Café Church Sunday 21 November 2021***

***Welcome and 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.**

***Songs of praise:***

Welcome King of Kings!

How great is Your name.

You come in majesty

Forever to reign.

You rule the nations,

They shake at the sound of Your name.

To You is given all power,

And You shall reign.

Let all creation bow down

At the sound of Your name.

Let every tongue now confess,

The Lord God reigns.

***Prayer:***

**God of gods and King of kings,**

**be with us as we seek to know more of your truth.**

**Speak to us by your Word and your Spirit.**

**Help us to see Jesus, and to hear his voice –**

**not just for today, but for all days,**

**and for the glory of your kingdom.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***We say sorry to God:***

O Lord our mighty God,

we have heard but not always listened to you:

with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.

We have seen need and closed our eyes to it:

with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.

**Lord forgive us.**

We have closed our ears to cries for help:  
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.  
**Lord forgive us.**

We have known your truth and yet followed lies and falsehoods:  
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.  
**Lord forgive us.**

**Holy Spirit, the truth is like a mirror  
and we don't like what we see looking back;  
we see our failures and mistakes.  
We are sorry that we have let you down,  
but we give thanks for the truth that when we ask,  
you forgive us. Amen.**

***Praise:***

**Psalm 93**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;  
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;  
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

<sup>2</sup>Your throne was established long ago;  
you are from all eternity.

<sup>3</sup>The seas have lifted up, LORD,  
the seas have lifted up their voice;  
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup>Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea—  
the LORD on high is mighty.

<sup>5</sup>Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;  
holiness adorns your house  
for endless days.

***Song:***

Above all powers, above all kings,  
Above all nature and all created things;  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,  
You were here before the world began.

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,  
Above all wonders the world has ever known;  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,  
There's no way to measure what You're worth.

Crucified, laid behind the stone;  
You lived to die, rejected and alone;  
Like a rose trampled on the ground,  
You took the fall and thought of me, Above all.

King of Kings Majesty,  
God of heaven living in me.  
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,  
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End:  
All within me falls at Your throne.

Your majesty, I can but bow;  
I lay my all before You now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve,  
I live to serve Your majesty.

Earth and heaven worship You,  
Love eternal, faithful and true,  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,  
Brought this sinner near to Your throne:  
All within me cries out in praise.

***Cafe sharing together activity*** – True or false?

***Bible reading: John 18:28-37 Jesus before Pilate***

<sup>28</sup> Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, 'What charges are you bringing against this man?'

<sup>30</sup> 'If he were not a criminal,' they replied, 'we would not have handed him over to you.'

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.'

'But we have no right to execute anyone,' they objected. <sup>32</sup> This took place to fulfil what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' <sup>34</sup> 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?' <sup>35</sup> 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

<sup>37</sup> 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

## ***Reflection and sharing together***

There is a well-known anecdote about Queen Elizabeth II when she was a young girl. One day she was wandering around one of the royal estates when a stranger asked her 'Who are you?' 'Oh, I'm no one,' she replied, 'but my father is the King.' Knowing the truth of who we are and to whom we belong can be enormously empowering. Today we celebrate the festival of Christ the King, and the truth of who we are when we belong to him. This knowledge strengthens us whatever challenges life may bring.

What does it feel like to be told something is true and then find out it isn't?

Why do you think Pilate misunderstood what Jesus meant?

How can we find time to listen to the voice of Jesus?

### ***Song:***

You are the mighty king  
The living Word;  
Master of everything,  
You are the Lord.

And I praise Your name,  
And I praise Your name.

You are Almighty God,  
Saviour and Lord;  
Wonderful Counsellor,  
You are the Lord.

And I praise Your name,  
And I praise Your name.

You are the Prince of Peace,  
Emmanuel;  
Everlasting Father,  
You are the Lord.

And I love Your name,  
And I love Your name.

You are the Mighty King,  
The living Word;  
Master of everything,  
You are the Lord.

## ***The prayers:***

### ***The Lord's Prayer:***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## ***Notices***

### ***Closing song:***

There is a higher throne  
Than all this world has known,  
Where faithful ones from every tongue  
Will one day come.  
Before the Son we'll stand,  
Made faultless through the Lamb;  
Believing hearts find promised grace:  
Salvation comes.

Hear heaven's voices sing,  
Their thunderous anthem rings  
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies,  
Their praises rise.  
All glory, wisdom, power,  
Strength, thanks and honour are  
To God, our King who reigns on high  
Forever more.

And there we'll find our home,  
Our life before the throne;  
We'll honour Him in perfect song  
Where we belong.  
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,  
As thirst and hunger die;  
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:  
We'll reign with Him.

***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.**

**And the blessing...**

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