



Sunday Worship at Home November 21st 2021 Christ the King

Opening Prayers:

Lord Jesus you are King and ruler of all!

Help us to acclaim you are our King today

Lord, direct our thoughts and prayers
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

We remember that even though he was a King, Jesus died on a cross to take away our sins.

King Jesus, you died because you loved us,

Lord have mercy

King Jesus, you died to save us

Christ have mercy.

King Jesus, you died so that we might be forgiven.

Lord have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy upon us,

forgive us our sins and bring us to eternal life. Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

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.

Gospel Reading: John 18: 33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate 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?' Jesus 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.' Pilate 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.'

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

Reflection on the Gospel.

Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, known as Stir up Sunday, the day when, having prepared the mix for your Christmas pudding or cake, you give it a final and comprehensive "**stir up**". However, stir up Sunday actually refers to something much more important. It is our prayer to God to stir up our will so that we get on with doing the good works that he has planned for us to do!

Today we also celebrate the magnificence of Christ the King before moving to the sombre season of Advent and the start of the new liturgical year next Sunday. If you were to ask me what attributes made a good king or queen, I would point to Queen Elizabeth the second, who has them all. She is of royal lineage, has good leadership skills, strength of character, honesty, respect for the law, a sense of justice and a strong faith in God; as a monarch and leader, she is an example for us all to follow; walking as she does in the footsteps of Jesus. In our reading we see Pilate asking Jesus if he is King of the Jews knowing the charges against him are trumped up, but his only concern is whether Jesus is challenging **HIS** power. Jesus distinguishes his kingdom from the political powers of the world saying, "My kingdom is not of this world". But Pilate doesn't understand, nor does he care: he is obsessed with the one word - King! Pilate sees Jesus the King as a threat to his own position of power. Neither he nor the Jews understand Jesus, assuming he had come to fight an earthly battle. They couldn't grasp that Jesus could do more for the world with his impending sacrifice than any earthly king could do with all their wealth, power and weaponry; Pilate and others could not see beyond their own desires. This gospel story shows the real majesty of Jesus who never raised an angry response to Pilate. He never denied he aimed at conquest, but it was conquest over evil and sin, with love the ultimate prize. This was the truth he came to share. Amen

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Be still and Pray:

For our families and those we love. For the Church throughout the world, giving thanks for our Benefice. For our nations' leaders to govern with care and not self-gain. For Her Majesty the Queen that she may continue to be a beacon of light and hope to her people as we give thanks for a lifetime of service to her country and her God. Pray for comfort for those in sickness or need and keep in your hearts the memory of those who have died recently, especially Joan Benson of Little Houghton, Laurence Robinson of Cogenhoe and Peter Bonnar, known to some in this Benefice. May they rest in peace and rise in glory
Amen

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, which art in heaven.....

Blessing:

It is not enough to claim Jesus Christ as our Lord and King. Our mission is life is to make his kingdom a reality and to bring it to those around us by our words and deeds.
May God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless you for this task. Amen

Reverend Irene