



The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
Sunday 21 November
The Feast of Christ the King



Liz has put together our worship for today

Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Call to Worship

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is the King of glory?’

‘The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.’

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is this King of glory?’

‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.’

Opening Prayer

We stand before the throne of God with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

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.

**O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father;
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:
There is no end to his greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another,
And shall declare your power.**

All creation praises you, Lord,
And your faithful servants bless you.

**They declare the glory of your kingdom
And tell of your mighty power.**

My mouth shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.
**Let every living thing bless his holy name
For ever and ever.**

The 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.**

The Word of God

First Reading: Revelation 1: 4-8

John 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, and 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, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! 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.

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

Thanks be to God for the gift of his word

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."

Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Word

Reflection from Alison

**Come on and celebrate
His gift of love, we will celebrate
The Son of God who loved us
And gave us life.
We'll shout Your praise, O King,
You give us joy nothing else can bring,
We'll give to You our offering
In celebration praise.**

One of the many joys of my ministry in the Church of England is having groups of school children visit the buildings. I love to let the kids run around and look, touch, see, feel, smell everything around them and then come back with any questions. It's always unpredictable and really keeps me on my toes!

Once, after seeing a contemporary image of the Last Supper, one child explained that she was shocked to know they had 'tare and share garlic bread' in Jesus' day! Another questioned how come Jesus could fit inside the aumbry (the little hole in the wall where the consecrated bread is kept in some churches), did he bend himself to squeeze in there? Yet, the most profound question once came from a 7-year-old Somali boy, who when looking at the stained-glass window of Christ the King in the East of the Church asked: **"How come you call your God the suffering servant but he is dressed in royal clothes?"**

I was dumfounded at the weight of his question, such an insight from a young child! I told him to turn around and look at the image in the East window and there was the answer to his question, the near naked, blood-stained body of the crucified Christ, and seeing this image, he was satisfied that our God is indeed a suffering servant.

I explained that Jesus' first coming was as our Suffering Servant who came to set us free from sin and death and that at Jesus' second coming, He will return as Conquering King and that I, as a Christian, made a decision to accept Jesus as my Saviour, my Suffering Servant, and choose to let Him be my Lord, the King who sits on the throne of my heart, and that I look forward to the day when I will have the joy of seeing Him return as Conquering King.

Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday on this last Sunday of Ordinary Time (last Sunday after Pentecost), before the beginning of Advent that starts the new Church Year. As the last Sunday of the Christian Church Year, Christ the King Sunday is the climax and conclusion of the Church's journey through the life of Christ and the Gospel message.

Its purpose is to celebrate the coming reign of Christ as King of the Earth and his completion of the renewed creation that marks the fullness of the Kingdom of God. That hope is born from the entire life of Christ and his teachings that have been celebrated in the seasons of the Church Year during the past twelve months. In CELEBRATING the Reign of Christ the King, this Sunday also provides an appropriate bridge to the new Church Year that begins the following Sunday on the first Sunday of Advent with an emphasis on hope and expectation, the longing for the coming of the Kingdom of God amid the darkness of a broken world.

So COME ON! LET'S CELEBRATE!

Affirmation of faith

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the father.
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures.
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession with Astrid Hansen

You are the King of Glory, O Christ, and we come to you in worship, in praise, in thanksgiving for so much in our lives, in our communities, in our country; and because you have invited us to, we come also with prayers of intercession, of asking, of trusting to your mercy so many needs.

God of creation and Lord of life, you entrusted us to care for our environment but in many parts of the world we have failed. Help us to realise how fragile and unstable we have let our surroundings become. Teach us to be true stewards and to understand how everything, from the smallest creature, the tiniest flower, to every person in every country, is a part of a wondrous whole.

Lord, your kingdom come on earth
as it is in heaven.

Lord in a world where the peace that is your will seems so far from our grasp, we pray for understanding between people of different backgrounds, religious, political and cultural, for all caught up in violence, for all driven from their homes by fear or want.

Christ our King you are there at the centre of power where decisions are made and you are there with the weak and humble. We pray for all rulers and people in authority who seek honesty and justice, at home and abroad, that they may hear your voice.

Lord your kingdom come on earth
as it is in heaven

We pray for those around us, some whose needs we know something of, others quietly coping with problems within their families; those in our villages suffering from Covid or from other conditions where treatment has been delayed by the impact of the pandemic, those grieving the loss of someone dear. May all those we hold before you feel your strength and support.

We pray for our villages and for our role within them.

Grant your church and us in this small part of it, courage to proclaim the gospel and to reveal your love in the way we live.

Lord, may your kingdom come in us.

Amen

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.**

Conclusion

Closing Prayer

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

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 of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.