

REFLECTIVE SERVICE: FOR WORSHIP IN ISOLATION
SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER- SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT
The FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Message from Mark

WORSHIP REVIEW (3)

Following a recent Review, the situation remains currently unchanged regarding Guidance for Worship at all our Churches.

Therefore:-

Masks are encouraged when singing.

An Offertory plate will be brought forward – please leave offerings in the plate as you enter church.

Holy Communion to be offered in one kind only (ie bread)
(Note - the priest consumes wine *on behalf of all the people*).

Please continue to come forward individually (not to the altar rail).

There will be a further Review in November. Thank you all for your patient understanding and support of one another.

Mark
October 2021

Other notices

All Saints' Holy Communion, first, third and fourth Sundays at 10.30am.

St Mary's 2.30pm, second Sunday of the month.

St Nicholas', 2.30pm, first Sunday of each month

St Aidan's, third Sunday Holy Communion BCP at 8.45 am

St Michael's Morning Praise at 11.00am on the first Sunday of the month and Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 11.00am on the third Sunday of the month.

For more details, please check Surprise View or the web site. We will endeavour to make sure that any changes to the regular pattern are notified

Hand sanitisers are still available, and we invite you to use them.

We invite you still to record your presence if you wish.

All churches are open during daylight hours for private prayer.

As we meet together in spirit through these words of praise, may we think of and pray for each other sharing this reflection and also pray for those meeting to worship together.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart. You may like to light a candle

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with us today, as we offer ourselves to you. Hear our prayers for others and for ourselves and keep us in your care.

Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Keep a short silence. Confession:

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Absolution:

May God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. Amen.

Collect for The Sunday next before Advent, Feast of Christ the King

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven

that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit

and in the bond of peace,

and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Read a passage from the Bible

The Gospel of John 18.33-37

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ 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?" ³⁶ 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." ³⁷ 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."

Spend a few moments in silence thinking about the passage and ask God to speak to you through his scriptures

Reflection

**REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
TEXTS Daniel Ch.7.9-10,13,14 and The Gospel of John Ch.18.33-37**

At the end of our Christian year, we celebrate all that has gone before us – the calling of Jesus, the following on his way, the cost of discipleship, crucifixion, resurrection and the coming of the Spirit upon God’s people – all these are gathered together today in the presence of Christ the King.

Today is a time to look back. A time to reflect on all that has passed by. A time to look and to see God in all and throughout all, history, and creation.

But what is the nature of God’s Kingdom?

Before his death, Jesus is asked by Pilate, “*Are you the King of the Jews?*”

Jesus replies, “*My kingdom is not from this world.*” (John 18.33,36)

How do you understand the idea of God’s kingdom?

Is it an ‘idea’ to be grasped and understood, or is it perhaps a ‘relationship’ to be explored and experienced?

As followers of Jesus, what is it that we are called into?

This question raises issues of Doing and Being – the outer life and the inner life of us all. How do we live with each other? How do we live with God?

Daniel’s vision of divine judgement (Dan.7.10,13,14) reminds us that at the end of time, all will be gathered before God, nothing will be lost and we will each be asked to give account of our lives. A caution against pride and self-satisfaction...

Today however is a time for giving thanks as we remember that despite all the suffering and pain of life, God’s universal love holds everything and everyone together.

In her own vision of Christ crucified, Mother Julian of Norwich (14thC) wrote that “*Love is his meaning*”.

Where I wonder, is that truth to be seen in your life?

Mark

We affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.

Lord, meet us in the silence

And hear our prayer.

Silence for prayer is kept: Pray for yourself in your isolation, that you would know God is with you. Pray for others in their loneliness. Pray for our country. Pray for the world.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

“For God has said, ‘I will not leave you or forsake you’ so we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear’.” (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be dismayed.” (*Deuteronomy 31:8*)

*Please God, we can **all** meet together in church again, soon.*