



Welcome to  
**All Saints**  
**Kings Heath**  
Your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham

# Christ the King Morning Prayer

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

We “gather”

*The service should flow as well with one worshipper as with more. Some words are printed plain and some **bold**. If you are on your own, you can either read all aloud, or read the plain silently and the **bold aloud**. If there are several praying together, you could share out the parts.*

*Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.*

HYMN

[Christ is the King! O friends rejoice](#)

1. Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;  
brothers and sisters, with one voice  
make the world know he is your choice.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
2. O magnify the Lord, and raise  
anthems of joy and holy praise  
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.
3. O Christian women, Christian men,  
all the world over, seek again  
the Way disciples followed then.
4. Christ through all ages is the same:  
place the same hope in his great name,  
with the same faith his Word proclaim.
5. Let love's unconquerable might  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the Lord of light.
6. So shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,

and the whole Church at last be one.

*(words: George Kennedy Allen Ball alt;  
music: melody from Melchior Vulpius's 'Gesangbuch' [1609])*

*We call upon God:*

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Give us the joy of your saving help  
**and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

Come, let us worship and bow down  
**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God;  
**We are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.** (Psalm 95:6-7)

*We pause, separately in our homes, but united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy Word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may find new ways to serve God.*

## Prayers of Penitence

The prophet Ezekiel pictures us as a vulnerable flock of sheep. He laments not the threat of wolves or thieves from outside, but the ways in which we hurt and compete with each other. We feel the external threat of disease, and lament natural disaster, but first we focus first on the ways we hurt others. For our homes and for our government, from here to America, from there to Afghanistan we pray:

God, in Christ you model a different way of leading. We confess the ways we have conspired with bullying, or let it go unchallenged.

**Lord, have mercy.**

God, in Christ you refuse to count your persecutors as your enemies. We confess how humanity subverts peace negotiation with rumour and with rocket fire.

**Christ, have mercy.**

God, in Christ you loved the rich and poor with equal dignity. We confess the ways we have disadvantaged the poorest and flattered the rich.

**Lord, have mercy.**

God, our shepherd, seek us when lost.

Bring us back when we stray.

Bind us up when injured

and strengthen us when weak.

(cf Ezekiel 34:15-16)

**May the God of Love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Word of God

READING [Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#) (click [here](#) for text; readings from Lindsey Hammond)

READING [Ephesians 1:15-end](#) (click [here](#) for text)

HYMN [He is exalted](#)

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.  
He is exalted for ever exalted and I will praise his name!  
He is the Lord; for ever his truth shall reign.  
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

*(words & music: Twila Paris)*

READING [Matthew 25:31-end](#) (click [here](#) for text)

CANTICLE [Benedictus](#)

1. Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who brings the dawn and darkest night dispels,  
who raises up a mighty saviour from the earth,  
of David's line, a son of royal birth.
2. The prophets tell a story just begun  
of vanquished foe and glorious victory won,  
of promise made to all who keep the law as guide:  
God's faithful love and mercy will abide.

*Men:*

3. This is the oath once sworn to Abraham:  
all shall be free to dwell upon the land,  
free now to praise, unharmed by the oppressor's rod,  
holy and righteous in the sight of God.

*Women:*

4. And you, my child, this day you shall be called  
the promised one, the prophet of our God,  
for you will go before the Lord to clear the way,  
and shepherd all into the light of day.
5. The tender love God promised from our birth  
is soon to dawn upon this shadowed earth,  
to shine on those whose sorrows seem to never cease,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.

*(words: Owen Alstott, from Luke 1:68-79; music: Bernadette Farrell)*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, aware of our small part in God's long story of being with humankind:*

**All: 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.**

## Prayers

[INTERCESSIONS](#) led by Nigel Pietroni

On this last Sunday of the church year, we find ourselves in a very different situation we were in a year ago. Disparate in our homes, but united in our worship of Christ our King and our Good Shepherd. We pray for the church throughout our nation, for Archbishops Justin and Stephen, for David our Bishop that in the messiness of our national life, and the chaos of our world their voices might be one of calm assurance, bringing hope to the church and to all peoples of our nation.

**Guide us, O Lord, to a new beginning: in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray for our church family of All Saints, and for all those who minister to us. We thank you for David's ministry amongst us and pray for spiritual and physical refreshment for him and his family at the turn of the year. Especially today, on the anniversary of his licensing we thank you for the ministry over many years of Mike Cheesebrough as reader in this parish.

**Guide us, O Lord, to a new beginning: in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Today, on this feast of Christ the King, where we celebrate the difference in kingship that he offers the world, we pray for leaders across the globe. We pray for the quality of humility that doesn't put our leaders at the centre of the news, and instead increase in them the desire to be servants of the people. We especially pray for Joe Biden as he prepares to take office in The United States, for the qualities of humility, servant hood and diplomacy to heal a divided nation.

**Guide us, O Lord, to a new beginning: in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray for our nation in the midst of the pandemic and for wise decisions to be made in the weeks to come. We pray for good and honest government in parliaments across the United Kingdom, for councillors and council leaders in our city and in the cities and communities across the nation. For us your people seeking to live out our lives in the midst of often confusing messaging from those in power, protect our minds, and give us love in our hearts to see the needs of those around us and help us to make a difference.

**Guide us, O Lord, to a new beginning: in your mercy, hear our prayer**

At this present time so many are suffering physically, mentally and spiritually. Many are lonely and isolated and fearful of the future. Bring comfort and peace to all who are finding our current situation difficult in any way and we pray for those in the caring professions who are giving everything to help alleviate the suffering. As we approach Christmas we pray for those young people from All Saints who are away at university and coming towards the end of a difficult term. Give them peace of mind as they prepare to return home to their families.

**Guide us, O Lord, to a new beginning: in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who are recently bereaved and who may have been denied the opportunity to be with their loved one at the end of their lives. Bring them your comfort and hope for the future. In particular we give thanks for the life of Joyce Smith, a member of the 8am congregation and who was well known and loved by many, not least for her role as Lollipop lady at Colmore Infant and Junior School. We also today give thanks for the life of Sarah May, a local celebrant and friend of Sarah Bertram whose funeral was this week and who has given so much to many local families. From the parish records we also remember the anniversary of the death of Mollie Price.

**Guide us, O Lord, to a new beginning: in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*We pray* THE COLLECT for Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven, that he might rule of 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. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us  
and 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.**

ANTHEM [Because the Lord is my shepherd](#)

1. Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.  
He lets me rest in the meadow and leads me to the quiet streams.  
He restores my soul and he leads me in the paths that are right:

*Lord, you are my shepherd, you are my friend.*

*I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend.*

2. And when the road leads to darkness, I shall walk there unafraid.  
Even when death is close I have courage, for your help is there.  
You are close beside me with comfort, you are guiding my way:
3. In love you make me a banquet for my enemies to see.  
You make me welcome, pouring down honour from your mighty hand;  
and this joy fills me with gladness, it is too much to bear:
4. Your goodness always is with me and your mercy I know.  
Your loving kindness strengthens me always as I go through life.  
I shall dwell in your presence for ever, giving praise to your name:

*(words: Christopher Walker, based on Psalm 23; music: Christopher Walker)*

## HYMN

### [Jesus Christ is waiting](#)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets:  
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too;  
make me friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
2. Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets  
where injustice spirals and all hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too;  
in the kingdom's causes let me rage with you.
3. Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too;  
let my care be active, healing just like you.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,  
where each sign of hatred his strong love defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I feel triumph too;  
on suspicion's graveyard, let me dance with you.
5. Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
"Come and walk faith's tightrope, I will guide your feet."  
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few,  
walk one step before me, I will follow you.

*(words: John L Bell & Graham Maule; music: Traditional French melody, arr Christopher Tambling)*

## REFLECTION John Parkin

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be now and always acceptable in your sight, O Lord our Rock and our Redeemer.

When I began writing this sermon, some time ago, it was with some hope that I would get to stand at a Lectern and deliver it, but since then much has happened, and my hope now must be that it will be read by someone at sometime.

I feel a real weight of responsibility today, for today is not just 'Christ the King', the last Sunday of the Christian Year, but seems to be one of those days, where history has contrived to have a lot of things happen. Next Sunday is Advent Sunday when we start a new lectionary year and our Gospel Readings will mainly be from Mark's Gospel. Today is also I'm reminded, 'stir up Sunday', not part of the Lectionary provision, but a rather more secular event. There are many traditions around Christmas Puddings, and so I can only direct you to a search for them. It takes its name from the opening words of the Book of Common Prayer Collect for this Sunday. "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people".

It is also the Anniversary of Mike Cheesebrough's Licensing as Reader, a day on which he traditionally preached, so I feel a responsibility to 'do right by him' as a fellow ethnic Yorkshireman, though I hardly count, as a Sheffielder and therefore almost, but not quite, a southerner.

Now that he is Reader Emeritus as indeed is Gill Cole, that leaves me as one of the relatively few Active Readers in this Area, and I am approaching the end of my second round of Permission to Officiate This is often known as PTO but the jokes about that are too obvious to rehearse here. I've applied for a renewal for a third round. All I can say about this latest renewal is that David said 'yes' when he was asked if he wanted me to continue so he must relish (is that the correct word to use here?) something about this Turbulent Reader!

That brings up the thorny subject of succession planning, a matter which has set off not a few wars in history but hopefully it will not have a similar effect here at All Saints! It is clear that I'm only mortal, and though I hope to manage a few more useful years, I have to try to give things up and hand them on gracefully before I completely 'lose it'. I have hopes that before I go, there may be someone to succeed me, for that would indeed be living hopefully, something which we are all called on to do as part of our discipleship. There is a Sheffield saying which The Reverend Canon John Wilkinson tells me has travelled as far as Barnsley. It says 'live in Hope if you Die in Castleton' and to understand it you have to know something of the geography around and South-west of Sheffield, into the Derbyshire peak district, but it would seem to be applicable here to our urban situation and it offers us encouragement to look to the future.

I have to ask you, what were you doing on this day, 22 November, in 1963? Helen Lloyd pointed out in response to an email that this was a significant day in History. Personally I must have been about 19, and I have to ask myself if I was really old enough to understand what was happening to the world on the day that John Kennedy, 35<sup>th</sup> president of the USA, was assassinated and C S Lewis (of the *Chronicles of Narnia* fame) died?

I think it's probably too early to tell which of them has had most influence on humanity, and who will be remembered longest – I'll leave that for History to decide.

But my thoughts are taking me away from our readings this week, so what of them?

Well our first two readings certainly apply to Mike, who through his long life and ministry has followed his Lord as the Good Shepherd – and has been a Good Shepherd himself as many here will attest, and the description in our New Testament reading paints an accurate picture of Mike, Our first reading's picture is determinedly Pastoral, with its Image of God as Good Shepherd as indeed is the last verse of the Psalm set for today ( Psalm 95 vv1-7 ,the last verses are omitted in the Lectionary.).

That's something which brings many images to mind, speaking as someone who originally lived within reach of the Derbyshire countryside.

It's hills were dotted with sheep, that I remember from my childhood, a childhood which included visits to the Longshaw Sheepdog Trials.

If you have any memories of watching 'One man and his Dog' that's the sort of thing I remember.

And our Gospel? It contains strong strains of social justice, but leaves us with the question of whose theology is it, and to whom does it apply?

Is it Matthew's thoughts?

Is it based on Old Testament ideas of Justice?

Who does it apply to, who is it intended to benefit?

Is it just fellow Israelites, the disciples, or all people? These questions are very relevant and in many ways still undecided, still awaiting more evidence. Perhaps it is good that some of these matters are undecided, perhaps never to be decided at this distance in time, for that leaves us free and gives us the responsibility, to offer our own interpretation, make our own judgement. I've been known to complain that Theology and scriptural interpretation seem less open to change than other disciplines .

For example in my own area of Physics, with a personal interest in Astronomy, much has changed over about the last century, so that a scientist from the start of that period would scarcely recognise the subject now. Indeed some people regard Scripture as eternal truth, unchangeable and easily understood.

'The Bible plainly says' they claim when often it doesn't say anything very clearly and requires considerable effort to be understood.

So how do we respond to these words? It's of interest that the actions mentioned in the reading are 6 of the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy of traditional religion. Indeed this passage is their origin and Pope Francis has proposed the addition of 'Care for Creation' as both a corporal and spiritual Work of Mercy. Notably the one omission in the original list is 'Bury the dead' which wasn't added until the middle ages. Taken at face value they seem to belong to that great tradition of Old



Testament Prophecy which demands social justice, but they also point to the figure of a Kingly Christ, in David's line, sorting the sheep from the goats

A Son seated in Glory, a revelation of the true nature of the second person of a Trinitarian Godhead. That leaves us with the question of why a Trinitarian vision when the other Abrahamic faiths are insistent on a strict monotheism? Physics and Theology are not that far apart in their mental demands. Both of them make us think about things that our minds haven't so far needed, or had enough time, to evolve to think about. For example Quantum Mechanics and the two Theories of Relativity in Physics, the Godhead in Theology.

For this reason we are driven to use whatever concepts we have available in order to try and get some sort of grip on things which are past our ability to comprehend directly, Thinking that is something that helps me to try to get my head around the ideas involved.

So I seem to have, as has become my custom, left you with a lot to think over – and that's perhaps as I would wish it. May I end by wishing you good reading, thinking and praying.

Amen

HYMN [Thou didst leave thy throne](#)

1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown  
when thou camest to earth for me,  
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
for thy holy nativity.

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.*

2. Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang  
and proclaimed thee of royal degree,  
but in lowliest birth didst thou come to earth  
and in deepest humility.
3. Though the fox found rest, and the bird its nest  
in the shade of the cedar tree,  
yet the world found no bed for the Saviour's head  
in the desert of Galilee.
4. Though thou camest, Lord, with the living word  
that should set all thy people free,  
yet with treachery, scorn and a crown of thorn  
did they bear thee to Calvary.
5. When the heav'ns shall ring and the angels sing

at thy coming to victory,  
let thy voice call me home, saying, "Heav'n has room,  
there is room at my side for thee."

*(words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliot, based on Luke 2:7, adapted by Michael Forster;  
music: Timothy Richard Matthews)*

*A 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.**

VOLUNTARY [Allegro moderato](#) (*W. Warder Harvey; played by Benjamin Noakes*)

***Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England***

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## **Sheep and Goats**

### **Sheep Cheeses**

**Manchego** is delicious grated into a mixture of finely sliced celeriac and potato, tossed with oil and pepper and baked in an oven proof dish. Add some cream and dot with butter before baking for added luxury.

Roast beetroot in their skins, wrapped in foil. It takes up to an hour depending on their size. When cool enough to handle, peel and dice, dressing with chilli flakes, salt, pepper, balsamic vinegar and extra virgin olive oil. Scatter spinach leaves on each plate, then diced beet salad, then walnuts, then crumbled **Feta Cheese**. Do it just before serving so the beet dressing can begin to coat the spinach, but not discolour the cheese.

### **Goat Cheeses**

When those tiny yellow and red peppers are available I often roast them, brushed with a little olive oil, checking to catch them when they are soft but not mushy. Cut off the top and carefully remove the seeds with your finger when cool enough to handle.

Mix a rindless, fluffy goat's cheese with lemon zest, thyme or chopped rosemary, chives and pepper. Stuff the warm peppers with this and serve. They are slightly squidgy, so perhaps have a napkin to hand, but they are very delicious.

If you have a firm, sec goat's cheese like a **crotin de chevre**, coat it with beaten egg, then roll in a mixture of 2:1 breadcrumbs: chopped hazelnuts, (that's the cheese; not you) scented with thyme or rosemary. Roast for about fifteen minutes

until the crumbs are golden. Serve on a salad of tasty leaves and grated raw beetroot, dressed with oil and a little wine vinegar.

### **Reconciling the sheep and goats:**

Halloumi is made with a mixture of sheep and goats' cheese bringing them happily together after their cruel separation in Matthew 25. This cheese holds together when grilled and can be fried for breakfast, without even adding oil, its saltiness making it a superb focus for a cooked breakfast, ideal when you are bewildered that your offspring have come home from University announcing they are vegetarian. A foil for the cheese could be little tomatoes heated in a sauce pan with balsamic vinegar, oil and basil leaves until soft and just beginning to split.

*We were sad to hear the news that Joyce Smith has died. Joyce worshipped at our 8 o'clock Communion and was known to many as the ever-present crossing attendant at Colmore School. Her funeral will take place at her daughter's church, St Laurence Northfield, on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Numbers are limited so Joyce's family regrets, attendance will have to be by invitation only. The 400 birds in her aviary have been safely moved to a new home.*