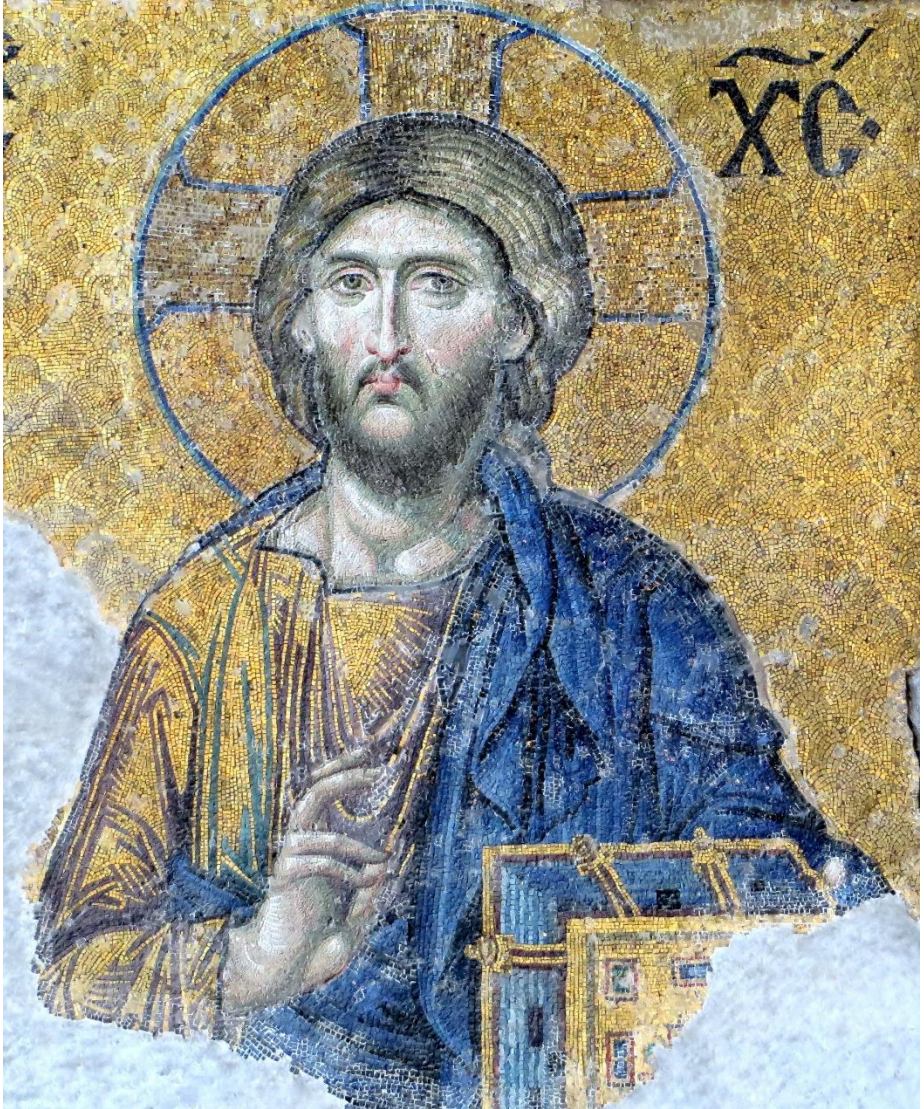




Chet Valley Churches



Service of the Word:
Christ the King

22nd November 2020

Welcome

We come together to worship and praise God,
to ask forgiveness of our sins
and to hear the Good News of Jesus

Your word, Lord, is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. (*Psalms 119.105*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

♪ Hymn: *The Lord is King, Lift Up Your Voice*

**The Lord is King! Lift up your voice,
O earth, and all you heavens, rejoice;
From world to world the joy shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'**

**The Lord is King! Who then shall dare
Resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees,
Or doubt his royal promises?**

**The Lord is King! Child of the dust,
The judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways:
Let every creature speak his praise.**

**He reigns! You saints, exalt your strains;
Your God is King, your Father reigns;
And he is at the Father's side,
The man of love, the crucified.**

**One Lord, one kingdom, all secures;
He reigns, and life and death are yours;
Through earth and heaven one song shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'**



Prayers of Penitence

Let us confess our sins, recognising and acknowledging those things which separate us from God and each other:

The kingdom is yours Lord,
but we turn away from your just rule:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The power is yours Lord,
but we trust in our own power and strength:

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

The glory is yours Lord,
but we fall short of the glory of God:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

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 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.**

Reading: *Ephesians 1:15-23*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

For the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95:1-7

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

for he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

♪ Hymn: Majesty, Worship His Majesty

**Majesty,
Worship his majesty.
Unto Jesus
Be glory, honour and praise.**

**Majesty,
Kingdom authority,
Flows from his throne
Unto His own;
His anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high
The name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus the king.**

**Majesty,
Worship His majesty.
Jesus who died,
Now glorified.
King of all kings.**



📖 Reading: *Matthew 25:31-46*

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I

was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”

Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Talk [Rev David]

In front of me I have a lot of ingredients:

450g / 1lb dried mixed fruit (use a mixture of sultanas, raisins, and snipped apricots);

1 small cooking apple, peeled, cored and roughly chopped;

1 orange, finely grated rind and juice;

3 tbsp brandy, sherry, or rum;

75g / 3oz butter, softened, plus extra for greasing;

100g / 3½oz light muscovado sugar;

2 free-range eggs;

100g / 4oz self-raising flour;

1 tsp mixed spice;

40g / 1½oz fresh white breadcrumbs;

40g / 1½oz whole shelled almonds, roughly chopped.

- Measure the sultanas, raisins, apricots and apple into a bowl with the orange juice. Add the measured brandy (or rum or sherry), stir and leave to marinate for about one hour.
- Put the measured butter, sugar and grated orange rind into a large bowl and cream together with a wooden spoon or a hand-held whisk until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs, adding a little of the measured flour if the mixture starts to curdle.
- Sift together the flour and mixed spice, then fold into the creamed mixture with the breadcrumbs and the nuts. Add the soaked dried fruits with their soaking liquid and stir well.

- Butter a 1.4 litre / 2½ pint pudding basin. Cut a small disc of foil or baking parchment and press into the base of the basin.
- Spoon into the prepared pudding basin and press the mixture down with the back of a spoon. Cover the pudding with a layer of baking parchment paper and foil, both pleated across the middle to allow for expansion. Tie securely with string and trim off excess paper and foil with scissors.
- To steam, put the pudding in the top of a steamer filled with simmering water, cover with a lid and steam for eight hours, topping up the water as necessary.
- To boil the pudding, put a metal jam jar lid, or metal pan lid, into the base of a large pan to act as a trivet. Place a long, doubled strip of foil in the pan, between the trivet and the pudding basin, ensuring the ends of the strip reach up and hang over the edges of the pan. This will help you to lift the heavy pudding basin out of the pan of hot water when it has finished cooking. Lower the pudding onto the trivet and pour in enough boiling water to come half way up the side of the bowl. Cover with a lid, bring the water back to the boil, then simmer for about seven hours, topping up the water as necessary.
- When cooked through, remove the pudding from the pan and cool completely. Discard the paper and foil and replace with fresh. Store in a cool, dry place to mature.
- To serve on Christmas Day, steam or boil the pudding for about two hours to reheat. Turn the pudding onto a serving plate. Eat and enjoy.

Well I hope you do, but why give a Mary Berry recipe for Christmas pudding today? Why indeed. Because today, the last Sunday of the Christian Church calendar year has as the opening words of a prayer for the day: “Stir up O Lord...” A grand finale of exhortation before beginning a new year; but also, being the fifth Sunday before Christmas, it was an appropriate time to get the Christmas pudding, or Christmas cake, all stirred up and prepared in readiness for the great feast! A little later we shall hear that prayer as part of our intercessions; but those two expressions will also form part of our reflection now. Stirred up and preparedness.

Something which is stirred up can be both wholesome or challenging. When we mix and blend the ingredients to create a cake we infuse one

element with another such that the whole is more than the sum of its parts—something new is created from the individual ingredients. However when something is stirred up it can also be challenging. A few years ago I joined an expedition along with my wife and friends along the coast of Norway which took us to witness the maelstrom which gets created in the waters there as the tide comes in and out. Dangerous and powerful in the extreme. When something stirs like that one needs to be on guard.

But this Sunday is also known by another name—the one which is evident in the choice of hymns and collect we heard earlier—it is known as Christ the King.

And here is that other element—preparedness. Are we ready for the coming of the King, in the person of Jesus the judge? Not here are we considering Jesus the babe.

The Reverend Professor Jeff Astley says, in a comment on the passage we heard from Ephesians, that Christianity and power seem incompatible. A common view indeed and one which is very much part of popular understanding. Tim Rice, in his lyrics for Jesus Christ Superstar has Pilate saying:

“Oh, so this is Jesus Christ, I am really quite surprised.
You look so small, not a king at all.
We all know that you are news, but are you king,
King of the Jews?”

Pilate couldn't grasp the idea at all and the thought of Jesus as the powerful king takes some thinking about yet... St Paul in his teaching to the church at Ephesus tells us as much today as he writes this letter he says that “God put this power to work in Christ.” (chapter 1, verse 20).

People of power can become obsessed by it and seek to use it for their own ends. It's probably true to say that we as humans have never truly been able to exercise power without causing great devastation to someone or something. The exercise of power requires true wisdom and in the history of human kind only Christ has proved that he knows how to exercise it. Christ the King fills the empty place of power by the abhorrence of evil and the creation of peace and justice. Are we prepared to follow Jesus' example and exhortation? If not we need to be ready for the consequences.

So let us seek to follow His lead, to be stirred up so we may bring forth the fruit of good works in our lives, to our community and for our world.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Jesus, the Name High Over All

**Jesus, the name high over all,
In Hell or earth or sky;
Angels and men before him fall,
And devils fear and fly.**

**Jesus, the name to sinners dear,
The name to sinners given;
He scatters all their guilty fear;
He turns their Hell to Heaven.**

**Jesus the prisoner's fetters breaks,
And bruises Satan's head;
Power into strengthless souls he speaks,
And life into the dead.**

**O that the world might taste and see
The riches of his grace;
The arms of love that compass me
Would all mankind embrace.**



**His only righteousness I show,
His saving truth proclaim;
'Tis all my business here below
To cry: 'Behold the Lamb!'**

**Happy, if with my latest breath
I might but gasp his name,
Preach him to all, and cry in death:
'Behold, behold the Lamb!'**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.

May your reign come; **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church, that it may extend your welcome to people of every race and background.

May your kingdom come; **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who put their trust in you, that together we may come to understand the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your dominion come: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have courage to endure.

May your rule come: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and in truth.

May your reign come; **Lord hear our prayer.**

Loving God you have taught us that the power of the heart is greater than the power of wealth and might.

Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come; your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And 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.**

♪ Hymn: *Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning*

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
Hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
Power and majesty concealing
By your humble birth:
*Yours the glory...***

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
Victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
Sinners justified:
*Yours the glory...***

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever
High in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
Stifle hymns of love:
*Yours the glory...***

**So, our hearts and voices raising
Through the ages long,
Ceaselessly upon you gazing,
This shall be our song:
Yours the glory...**

Blessing

**The Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face to shine upon us,
and be gracious to us;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon us,
and give us peace**

[Based on Numbers 6:24-26]

Christ our King make us faithful and strong
to do his will, that we may reign with him in glory
and the blessing of God Almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you,
and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

The Peace & the Dismissal

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

