



CHRIST THE KING

21 November 2021



*“My kingdom is not from this world”....
Pilate asked him, “So, you are a king?”*

(John 18:36, 37)

MASKS

Please wear a mask in church at all times, unless you are reading or have an exemption.

REFLECTIONS ON THE LECTIONS

On this last Sunday of the Church year, we keep the Feast of Christ the King (or the Reign of Christ, or 'Jesus Christ our Universal King', to use its more formal title). It is a relatively recent and modern feast – recent, at least, in church history. It was introduced for observance by Pope Pius XI in 1925. It began to spread more widely after the Second World War and made its way to Anglican and other churches in the 1960s and 70s.

Given the 'speed' at which innovation and change comes to the Church ("Like a mighty tortoise, moves the Church of God; brothers, sisters we are treading where we have already trod", as the hymn parody has it), this observance was a response to the horrors witnessed not only in World War I, but in the claims made by various governments in the names of the kings and emperors of Europe in the origins of that conflict. At the time, Pope Pius was also somewhat concerned by the Italian political scene, and the rise of Mussolini – *Il Duce* (which is simply Italian, as *Führer* is German, for the Leader), as he styled himself. The Pope wished to draw attention to a vision of a different kind of leadership from that the world had experienced through the dreadful bloodbath of the War; and from what he, and others, were beginning to see emerging in Italy. The call was for the Church to recall the mode of leadership, lordship, rule the Lord Jesus offered.

The readings we hear today reveal clearly the contrast offered between Jesus as King, and what we all-too often see as models of leadership in political and other elements of life. As we saw during Holy Week, John is determined to present Jesus as a triumphant king – so that, in John's account of the Passion, Jesus carries his own cross to Golgotha, while still wearing the purple robe placed on him in mockery. John is also at pains, as he has Jesus tell Pilate, to make clear that the kind of kingship and kingdom that Jesus has and proclaims is 'not from this world' (John 18:36). As well as the obvious meaning, John's Greek also implies, 'my kingdom is not a kingdom as the world understands that word'. Again as we saw in Holy Week, the dramatic and ironic contrast John draws between Jesus and Pilate, the putative representative of worldly power, is telling. While Pilate rushes in and out, Jesus stands (in T. S. Eliot's words) as 'the still point of the turning world'.

The readings from Daniel and Revelation (the latter a *midrash* or reworking of the passage in Daniel) also reveal the difference in this kind of kingship or dominion and power. From Daniel, we discover that never failing power and dominion is given – not, as Daniel's readers might expect – to some mythical and terrifying beast, but to one who appears as a human being; or, in a more literal translation, a Son of Man. (We can see why the Church has always gone to this passage). Revelation makes clear not only that the dominion is given to a human one, but to one who has been pierced and is 'firstborn from the dead'. Again, this is not quite the image of power and dominion Roman emperors would have wanted to project. Above all, these three readings make abundantly clear, this dominion and power and glory is a shared kingship. The Ancient One, the Alpha and the Omega, the Lord hands over power and rule to the one who has been pierced – who has allowed himself to be 'handed over' to those who think they have great power. As followers of this king, citizens of this kingdom, let us strive to recognize this self-giving and -offering as the sign of true leadership, and give thanks for the ruler who calls us into this kingdom of peace.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Setting: Christ Church Mass Philip Matthias

We sing hymn 228 (vv. 1, 3 & 6)

President: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation, then this sentence of Scripture is read:

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing.

Revelation 5:12

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We sing together:

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the President 'collects' the silent prayer:

Everlasting God,
whose will is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son,
our Lord and King:
grant that the people of earth,
now divided and enslaved by sin,
may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now ever and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the prophecy of Daniel:

As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened....

As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Daniel 7: 9–10, 13–14

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 93 as set at *TiS*, 51

Second Reading

A reading from the Revelation to John:

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 for ever 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.

Revelation 1: 4b–8

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

All stand

Gradual Hymn 105

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

(from *Te Deum Laudamus*)

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.'

John 18: 33–38

For the gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit.

A sermon is preached.

After the sermon, silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

All stand

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

The Church of Bangladesh; The Diocese of Melbourne; Stewardship Agencies; St James' Pakenham; Anglican Parish of Banyule (as they celebrate the 170th anniversary of St John's Heidelberg); All Saints' Ascot Vale; St James' Ivanhoe; Christ Church Newport; St Stephen's Mt Waverley.

For all in need

Matthew, Sam, Milroy, Coral, David, Tony, Paul, Christine, Lei and her family, Keith, Erica, Peter, Leon, Josh, Vincent, John, Margaret, Dunstan, Noel, +Andrew, Russell, Joan, Jackie and Barry.

For the Faithful Departed

Those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Nina Lucy Benson, Noel Brown, Norman Coles, Lilian Crameri, Patricia Crowl, Patrick William Grutzner, Marjorie Hagerty, Pearl Hazewinkel, Marjorie (Alison) Pope, Frances Sefton, Richard Sexton, Winifred Slattery, Helen Trumble, Emily Whitbourne, Walter Yencken.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence is kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The President pronounces Absolution, and the people respond

Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 517 (vv. 1, 3 & 4)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are placed on the altar and the President offers prayers, to which the people respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The President then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The President continues with a prayer appropriate to the season, concluding with:

... we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The President continues the prayer until:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The President continues the prayer, which concludes:

...we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the President breaks the bread, the following is said:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

We sing

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The people and ministers receive the sacrament.

Anthem: *sung by the choir*

*King of glory, King of peace
I will love Thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spar'd me.
Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing Thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring Thee.
Though my sins against me cried
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me
Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n,
I will praise Thee;
In my heart, though not in heav'n
I can raise Thee
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enroll Thee:
E'en eternity's too short
To extol Thee*

Words: George Herbert (1593–1633)
Music: J.S. Bach (1685–1750) arr. W.H. Harris (1883–1973)

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A prayer is offered by the President, which ends

Father,
we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

Final Hymn 216 (vv. 1, 4 & 5)

THE BLESSING

The President pronounces a blessing, to which all respond

Amen.

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

Postlude: *Organ Concerto in G major* (1st mvt) BWV 592

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Scripture Readings next week

Jeremiah 33:14–16
1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Advent I

Psalms 25: 1–10
Luke 21:25–38

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekdays Monday – Saturday	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Prayer</u> in Chapel and by	<u>Evening Prayer</u> Zoom (details below)
Monday, 22 November	Psalms 51 2 Kings 23:4–15 Mark 1:29–39	Psalms 52; 53 Ecclesiastes 8:1–13 Revelation 11:1–14
Tuesday, 23 November <i>Clement of Rome, Ember Day</i> Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.	Psalms 54; 55:1–12 2 Kings 23:16–30 Mark 1:40–45	Psalms 55: 13–28 Ecclesiastes 8:14–9:6 Revelation 11:15–19
Wednesday, 24 November <i>James Noble, first Indigenous deacon in Australia Ember Day</i> Reflections on the Lections at 7:30 p.m.	Psalms 56; 57 2 Kings 23:31–24:9 Mark 2:1–17 by Zoom	Psalms 60; 61 Ecclesiastes 9:7–16 Revelation 12:1–6 for Zoom details, see below
Thursday, 25 November <i>Ember Day</i> Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m.	Psalms 62; 63 2 Kings 24:10–25:7 Mark 2:18–3:6	Psalms 64; 67 Ecclesiastes 9:17–10:15 Revelation 12:7–18
Friday, 26 November	Psalms 65; 70 2 Kings 25:8–21 Mark 3:7–19a	Psalms 66 Ecclesiastes 10:16–11:8 Revelation 13:1–10
Saturday, 27 November	Psalms 68: 1–20 2 Kings 25:21–30 Mark 3:19b–35	Psalms 68: 21–35 Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:14 Revelation 13:11–18
Next Sunday, 28 November Advent I	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 pm	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Advent Carols Service

Zoom Details for the coming week:

Annual General Meeting

11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 21

Meeting ID: 933 6680 5113; Passcode: 665734

Or place the following in your web

browser:<https://zoom.us/j/93366805113?pwd=OHJubzB4WTFyd3ZKSVPkSnpWQkhqdz09>

Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

Or place the following in your web browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

Or place the following in your web browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

'Reflections on the Lections'

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 24

Meeting ID: 912 9538 3359; Passcode: 065807

Or place the following in your web browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/91295383359?pwd=bUpIZUIqRVRKT3gvODlhTXNhbkIKZz09>

NOTICES

Annual Parish Meeting takes place this morning, immediately after refreshments following the service. Please return to the church building as soon as you have enjoyed some refreshments, for the meeting to begin promptly. The meeting will also be zoomed. Please see above for the zoom details.

Next Sunday is Advent Sunday, the start of the church's year. Falling on November 28, it is also the anniversary of Brenda's Ordination to the Priesthood. Therefore, we will have a special morning tea to mark this anniversary, and as a way of thanking Brenda, and giving thanks to God, for her ministry among and to us in that extraordinary year

Advent Carols Service - Having missed this annual highlight last year, there will be a service of Advent Carols and Lessons on **Advent Sunday** (November 28), at **6:30 p.m.** The theme for this year's service is 'From darkness to Light'. Given that both 2020 and 2021 have been years of considerable darkness, this will be an opportunity to reflect on the promises God makes to lead people from darkness into light, both with the coming of the Christ child and at the end of days when God's kingdom comes. The service will be followed with 'traditional' refreshments.

Book Launch - Elsbeth Jones has recently published a moving memoir: *Conversations with Stephen: Sharing our Welsh heritage*. Unsurprisingly, but graciously, Elsbeth had chosen to launch the book in the parish she has loved for many years. This will take place after the 10:00 a.m. eucharist on **Sunday, December 12**. Please don't miss this significant event in the life of the parish.

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) - Following our recent 5th Sunday appeal for donations for BASP, they have thanked St George's parishioners for their very kind donations of cheques, vouchers and food that have been given to them. It has been difficult times for them during the COVID lockdowns.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

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ASSISTANT CURATE

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HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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CHURCH OFFICE

Nisha O'Brien

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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If visiting the office, please observe all protocols relating to Covid 19, including signing in and sanitizing your hands.

WARDENS

Jenny Weller-Newton 9570 7731

Judy Mallinson 0414 752 957

Ravi Renjen 0412 399 897

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.