

Sunday 22nd November 2020

Kingdom 4—Christ the King

Today we are celebrating the feast day of Christ the King, the last Sunday before Advent and start of a new liturgical year. In our reading, Jesus foretells the scene of the Last Judgment. All the nations of the earth are drawn up before the Son of Man, who will separate them from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Placing the souls of the righteous on his right hand, he says to them,

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me,"

and when the righteous turn to him and ask when they can ever have had the opportunity to do such things for him, he answers them by saying,

"As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

As the Church year draws to its end, this vision is sobering. If you think the question is, 'am I a sheep or a goat?', Matthew suggests that you have missed the point. What you're seeking is not pie in the sky, but, as Archbishop Desmond Tutu stated, pie in the here and now. Strength for the journey. A nudge or a jolt from a spiritual cattle prod that will help you struggle up the path that awaits you.

The questions rightly to be asked are:
What am I supposed to be doing right now?
What does Jesus want me to do?
What does Jesus want me to be?
How will my life be different if Christ is King?

Jesus opens our eyes to see needs of the world in front of us. For Jesus the only distinction between what ultimately matters is whether we love or not love. Love not in the sense of an emotion but an act of the will.

"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."

If Christ actually is King in your life, then you will love as God loves, give as God gives, forgive as God forgives. If your values are God-values, you can't help but live as Christ taught.

Preaching in front of the Ebenezer Baptist congregation, Martin Luther King, Jr. told them, two months before his untimely death, how he would like to be remembered. He zeroed in on that ultimate question:

'If Christ is ruler over our lives, my Nobel Peace Prize is less important than my trying to feed the hungry. If Christ is King, then my invitations to the White House are less important than that I visited those in prison. If Christ is Lord, then my being TIME magazine's "Man of the Year" is less important than that I tried to love extravagantly, dangerously, with all my being.' (I Have a Dream, 191)

As Advent approaches, will the hungry, the refugee and asylum seeker be fed? Will the homeless be sheltered? Will the stranger and lonely be welcomed and loved?

Let us all be willing to bring God's love to the world.

Rev'd Sue Pratten

READINGS

COLLECT

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; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own

land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95 1-7

Response: **Great is the glory of the Lord. Alleluia**

O come, let us sing to the Lord:
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving:
and be glad in him with psalms. **R**

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it:
and his hands have moulded the dry land. **R**

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. **R**

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

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.

Ephesians 1:15–23

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

When the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory,
you will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Alleluia!

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘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.’

Matthew 25:31–46

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

POST COMMUNION 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.**

WEEKLY HYMN

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is is an 1868 hymn with lyrics written
by Henry Baker, based on the Welsh version of Psalm 23 and the
work of Edmund Prys.

PRAYERS

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may be holy.
Move in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.
Guard me, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.
Amen

Loving Jesus, you are compassionate to those in need
and heal the sick in body and mind.
Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time.
Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions
that separate us from you and from one another.
Give us grace to live our lives
confident in your promise that you are with us always.
Amen.



Advent Taizé

Rev'd Alan Maunder and Rev'd Sue Pratten invite
you to join a series of Taizé Advent Reflections:
LOVE, JOY, PEACE AND HOPE.

Each session will be stand-alone.

ALL WELCOME

TUESDAYS AT 10.30am via Zoom
(1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December 2020)
Please email office.stcadocs@gmail.com for Zoom link

NOTICES

Poppy Appeal - donations can still be given. There will be a retiring collection for the next week or two now that the churches are open.

MA Magazine—contributions for the December magazine are very welcome. Hard copies can be provided for those who are subscribers and do not have internet access. Please let Claire know—office.stcadocs@gmail.com.

SERVICES

You are all invited to join us in our worship in person and online on Sunday mornings from St Cadoc's. **The Zoom link and Order of Service are sent out via email on the Saturday morning before the service.** We are now back in the church. **Please make sure you continue to book in for our worship services** each time and do so by contacting: Claire at office.stcadocs@gmail.com (St Cadoc's), Angela at angela.obrien52@gmail.com (All Saints), Gerry at gerry@thebeeches.me.uk (St John's), Robert/Joanna at robertaitken895@btinternet.com (St Tegfedd's)

Sunday 22nd November

10.30am Eucharist via Zoom from St Cadoc's. Canon Jenny Mole preaching and presiding
10.30am Eucharist at All Saints. Rev'd Sue Pratten preaching and presiding.

Wednesday 25th November

10.30am Eucharist at St Cadoc's. Rev'd Alan Maunder preaching and presiding.

Sunday 29th November—Advent

10.30am MA Eucharist via Zoom from St Cadoc's. Bishop Cherry preaching and presiding.
Numbers will be restricted so please ensure that names are sent to Claire—office.stcadocs@gmail.com

Tuesday 1st December

10.30am Advent Taize Reflections via Zoom — the theme is Love

Wednesday 2nd December

10.00am Eucharist at All Saints. Rev'd Sue Pratten preaching and presiding.
10.30am Eucharist at St Cadoc's. Rev'd Alan Maunder preaching and presiding.

Saturday 5th December

12.00pm Wedding at St Cadoc's. Solomon Hartley and Isabelle Mellen

Sunday 6th December

8.00am Eucharist at St Cadoc's
10.00am Eucharist at St John's led by Canon Arthur Edwards
10.30am Eucharist at All Saints led by Rev'd Alan Maunder
10.30am Family Christmas Service celebrating the Feast of St Nicholas via Zoom from St Cadoc's, led by Rachel Kendall

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 2020

If you have been collecting an advent box for Raven House Trust throughout November, please bring it along to the Advent Service on 29th November 2020 when Bishop Cherry is coming to St Cadoc's and will bless all our gifts for those in need. Thank you!



CONTACT

We want to reassure you that Rev'd Sue and the churchwardens are available to talk and pray with people over the coming months. Please don't hesitate to contact us if this is something that would be helpful. Also, if you are aware of somebody who might appreciate some pastoral contact, please do let us know.

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