

## Prayers

God our 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.

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing at this time. We thank you that we can come to you as we are - with all our fears and concerns, our difficulties and challenges. Draw close to each of us and to those we name before you now...

Loving Lord, we bring before you all those who are living in fear or distress at this time: the sick; the homeless; the lonely; the troubled; those who are facing financial hardship and struggling to provide for their families;

Fill us with your compassion, bring to us your peace and comfort and fill us with your Spirit that, in love, we may be bearers of your truth, grace and hope to others.  
In the name of Jesus, we offer you these prayers.  
Amen.

## The Collect

God the Father,  
Help us to hear the call of Christ the King and follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.**

**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.**

May God keep us in all our days. May Christ shield us in all our ways. May the Spirit bring us healing and peace. May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us and pour upon us blessing and light. **Amen.**

*You may wish to end your time of quiet with God with music.*

# BENEFICE SERVICE ON PAPER

## For

## Christ the King

## Sunday 21st November



## Time of reflection for Christ the King

Eternal God,  
source of all blessing,  
help us to worship you with all our heart and mind  
and strength;  
for you alone are God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Reading John 18:33-37

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

<sup>34</sup> 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

<sup>35</sup> 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

<sup>37</sup> 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

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

### Reflection

Today sees the end the Church's year. Next week Advent starts, and we begin a new church year. At the end of any period, we might look back and reflect on what has happened.

If I were to give you a piece of paper and ask you to name events in Jesus' life and then peg them to a line of string across one of the churches, we should have a full 'washing line' of Jesus' story. Starting with Jesus' birth, we would finish today crowning him as king – Christ the King! A helpless baby and now a king. But what are our images of a king, I wonder.

In western culture today, we might think of a king being born in good and secure surroundings; in a palace or a hospital maybe. Jesus, God's Son, was born in a stable with animals alongside because there was no other place. Far from a safe and secure environment for a baby.

We might think of a king having a household of supporters and guards; Jesus had a 'questionable' band of followers, his disciples, and spent most of his time travelling on the road. Jesus met not the powerful people, but the powerless. We remember the first people he met were those lowly shepherds!

We think of a king as a ruler of a kingdom. Jesus is the ruler not just of one kingdom, but of the whole world and eternity; he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We think of a king as a master over people; Jesus took the bowl of water and washed the disciples' feet; he was a servant to people.

We think of a king wearing a golden jewelled crown and seated on a throne; Jesus wore a crown of thorns, and his earthly 'throne' was the cross.

What we see in Jesus is a king who is very different from our earthly understanding of Kingship.

Jesus has no armies because his kingdom isn't about wars and fighting but about love. His kingdom has no boundaries because it includes the whole world. Jesus didn't wear a golden crown but instead, he suffered and wore a crown of thorns. His love for us is so great he suffered and died for us so that we could be forever in his kingdom.

It is our choice whether we accept the Kingship of Christ. To follow Christ as King is to embrace God's unconditional love for each one of us and for the whole of creation. To accept Christ's rule in our lives is to become vulnerable for Christ and powerless in an earthly sense, in a world that competes for power and authority. Belonging to God's kingdom can be hurtful and painful – but it is for Christ too. Sometimes it means being uncomfortable and standing up for what we believe. His kingdom as Jesus' says, '.... is not from this world' and that he came into the world 'to testify to the truth'. He goes on - 'Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

If we listen to Christ's voice and respond, we are not abandoned and are always loved. We become part of Christ's kingdom here on earth, part of his reign, his story and can peg our names to that washing line too. Amen.