

## **A Service of Morning Worship for Christ the King/Sunday next before Advent 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

**Welcome** *all are welcomed by the officiant.* (Fr Ian)

### **Opening Greeting and Gathering** (Fr Ian)

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

Here we are Lord; your people, your Church, meeting together in your presence. We welcome each other and we welcome you. Make yourself known to us in new ways through our worship, our prayers and our understanding of your Word today.

This is your day and we shall praise you! This is your day and we shall declare your name! This is your day, and we shall worship a risen Saviour and our King!  
Amen.

### **Call to Worship and Opening Prayers** (Bob )

It is good to be together, God, on these screens, with these people, together listening for your voice, separated, yet united by your Spirit. In this time of worship tell us about your kingdom of kindness so that we can seek it. Show us your justice. We want to walk with you, humbly, closely, daily.  
Amen.

**Merciful God: We come together to worship longing for tenderness because this world can be hard. We come longing for light because our lives are crowded with shadows. We come desperately needing direction. Fill us this morning with your peace as we know your spirit is our peace and our path.**  
Amen.

### **Prayers of Penitence and Absolution** (Fr Ian)

O God, our Heavenly Father,  
give us a vision of our world as Your love would make it:

a world where the weak are protected  
and none go hungry or poor;

a world where the benefits of civilized life are shared,  
and everyone can enjoy them;

a world where different races, nations and cultures  
live in tolerance and mutual respect,

a world where peace is built with justice,  
and justice is guided by love;

and give us the inspiration and courage to build it,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Prayer of Confession (Bob)**

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him together:

Lord, like a shepherd,  
You never stop searching for Your people,  
Your care for us anticipates our need.  
Before we recognized we needed Your grace,  
in love, Jesus gave His life for our forgiveness.

We confess that we need Your forgiveness,  
we confess our sins:  
You are the shepherd and we are Your flock,  
but we admit the times we have tried to take Your place  
and take control ourselves.  
We admit that we have not always trusted  
Your good news to be good for us.  
At times we have pleaded with You to care for us,  
but we have held back from caring for others  
and ignored the needs of others.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Forgive us in the name of Jesus.  
Loving shepherd,  
teach us by the Holy Spirit to follow You  
in the days and places of the weeks ahead.  
Through Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen.**

### **The Absolution (Fr Ian)**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse *you* from *your* sins, and restore *you* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance (Fr Ian)**

Jesus came to us not to reign as a king over us,  
but to serve us,  
and to show us the way of God is the way of love.  
Jesus said the first would be last and the last would be first.  
Jesus called us to become humble and serve one another,  
and that the most important commandment  
was to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.  
This is the way of our Sovereign.  
Go, knowing you are forgiven,  
and love and serve one another,  
especially our neighbours in need,  
as Christ serves us. Amen.

### **The Canticle: (Fr Ian)**

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord. Praise and exalt him above all forever.  
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord.  
You heavens, bless the Lord.

All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord.  
All you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord.  
Sun and moon, bless the Lord.  
Stars of heaven, bless the Lord.  
Every shower and dew, bless the Lord.  
All you winds, bless the Lord.  
Fire and heat, bless the Lord.  
Cold and chill, bless the Lord.  
Dew and rain, bless the Lord.  
Frost and chill, bless the Lord.  
Ice and snow, bless the Lord.  
Nights and days, bless the Lord.  
Light and darkness, bless the Lord.  
Lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord.  
Mountains and hills, bless the Lord.  
Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord.  
You springs, bless the Lord.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us praise and exalt him above all forever. Blessed are you, Lord, in the firmament of heaven. Praiseworthy and glorious and exalted above all forever  
(Daniel 3)

### **The Collect for Christ the King (Fr Ian)**

Let us pray

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, now and for ever. [Amen.](#)

### **Readings**

#### **Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 (Peter Holroyd)**

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

<sup>11</sup> For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: <sup>18</sup> Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? <sup>19</sup> And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet?

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup> Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup> I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup> I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

This is the word of the Lord. [Thanks be to God](#)

### **Psalm 95: 1-7 (Peter Holroyd)**

**A call to worship and obedience.**

<sup>1</sup> O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

<sup>3</sup> For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

<sup>6</sup> **O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

<sup>7</sup> 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!**

[Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.](#)

### **Ephesians 1: 15-23 (Margaret Yates)**

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord. [Thanks be to God.](#)

### **Gradual Hymn**

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.

## Gospel Reading (Fr Ian)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 25: beginning at the 31 verse

Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>31</sup> “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. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> 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; <sup>35</sup> 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, <sup>36</sup> 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.’ <sup>37</sup> 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? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup> 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.’

<sup>41</sup> 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; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> 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.’ <sup>44</sup> 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?’ <sup>45</sup> 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.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

## Sermon (Fr Ian)

### The Creed (Fr Ian)

Let us reaffirm our faith in God

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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. 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.

*Officiant:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness. (**Fr Ian**)

**Intercessions and Lord's Prayer ( Charles Dodd)**

Lord, as You hung on a cross,  
Your first thought was for others.  
You forgave the ones  
who ridiculed and tortured You,  
You accepted the criminal  
who hung beside You.  
And it was You who made a mockery  
of the sign they placed  
above Your head.  
For little did they know  
that they did indeed  
gaze at a king.  
Lord in your mercy...[Hear our prayer](#)

We don't need signs and labels  
to recognise Your power  
and Your authority, Lord.  
It is because we have seen  
the unlikely become reality;  
because we have witnessed You  
in the unexpected,  
and because we believe  
in truths honed by a carpenter's son,  
that we dare to hope, Lord,  
that Your kingdom has come among us  
and continues to come,  
day after day,  
among the poor and the lonely,  
the sick and the weary,  
the angry and the abused,  
the warmongers and the peace seekers.  
Lord in your mercy...[Hear our prayer](#)

And so it is for those  
and others whose lives are touched  
by grief and greed,  
injustice and injury,  
emptiness and endlessness  
that we pray now,  
trusting in the goodness and the grace  
that retrieved lost sheep and wayward sons;  
that consoled grieving mothers  
and weeping women at a tomb;  
that fed aching stomachs  
and eager minds;

that soothed the open wounds  
of untouchables  
and the throbbing scars of hatred;  
that laid open itself  
to pain, rejection and abandonment  
so that we might know healing,  
acceptance and belonging.  
Lord in your mercy...[Hear our prayer](#)

And if we catch only a glimpse  
of Your mercy among the hardness of life,  
if we can sense Your presence  
only for a fleeting moment  
in the busyness of life,  
if we can witness that wholeness  
happens among the brokenness of life,  
then we will know  
that Your kingdom has come  
and we pray that Your will be done.  
This day and always, for Jesus' sake  
and in his name we pray.  
**Amen.**

Finally Lord we pray for all those who need our prayers this day for whatever reason.

[Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.](#)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Lord has taught us, we pray:

[Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.](#)

### **The Peace (Fr Ian)**

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
[And also with you.](#)

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Canticle 22** The song of David (*1 Chronicles 29:10b-13,14b*) **(Bob)**

Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, ♦  
**for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.**

Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; ♦  
**yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
and you are exalted as head over all.**

Riches and honour come from you ♦  
**and you rule over all.**

In your hand are power and might; ♦  
**yours it is to give power and strength to all.**

And now we give you thanks, our God, ♦  
**and praise your glorious name.**

For all things come from you, ♦  
**and of your own have we given you.**

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### **Closing Prayers (Fr Ian)**

Let us pray:

Holy One, enthroned in glory over all creation, you are a shepherd to the lost and the least. Teach us to see your face among the poor, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or in prison, so that we may share in your eternal realm prepared from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, who is coming indeed, to reign with justice, compassion, and love. [Amen.](#)

**Sovereign God, ruler of all creation, you sent Jesus to testify to the truth: that you alone are the Lord of life. Help us to listen always to his voice so that we may proclaim his realm of justice, peace, and endless love; through Christ, who reigns forever. [Amen.](#)**

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Saviour, you pour out your power for the powerless and your salvation for the lost. Remember us in your new creation, so that we may live in peace with you in the presence of the Holy One, to whom be all honour and glory, through you, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. [Amen.](#)

**Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word, and encouraging us in our meeting together. Take us and use us to love and serve you, and all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. [Amen.](#)**

### **The Dismissal and Blessing (Fr Ian)**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.  
[Amen.](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
[In the name of Christ. Amen.](#)