

## Reflection for the Feast of Christ the King

On the last Sunday of the church's liturgical year we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. It's a relatively new feast, first celebrated in 1926, but the concept of Jesus as King goes right back to the time of his ministry, and even before: the angel Gabriel told Mary that her child's "kingdom will have no end", and the wise men came seeking the "king of the Jews". Our understanding of Jesus's kingship has expanded from just one nation to all of creation: the official (Roman Catholic) name for this Sunday is "the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe". By the visions given to the disciples at the Transfiguration and the Ascension, and in the book of Revelation, we know that Jesus is clothed with great glory that befits someone with such a title.

But we also know that is not the whole story. The wise men didn't find the new-born King in a palace; and the shepherds had found him lying in a feeding-trough. On Earth Jesus lived a humble life of material poverty in service of the poor, needy and outcast; and he died in humiliation on the cross to open the way for us back to God. Paul writes about the "riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints", reminding us that as Christ's brothers and sisters we too will share in his glory; but the Gospel reading makes clear that we are called to share also in his ministry of humility and service. The service and the glory are inseparable for the King of the Universe, and for all who follow him.

So let us pray that God's Holy Spirit will help us in that ministry, using the words of the former collect (now post-communion prayer) for this Sunday:

"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!

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden

### Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 4th October to the end of November:

**Meeting ID:** 865 5823 0026

**Passcode:** 504187

**Telephone numbers:** 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

### NEXT SUNDAY 29.11 20 Advent Sunday

**SERVICES** 10.30 by Zoom



#### READINGS

OT Isaiah 64: 1-9

NT 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Gospel Mark 13: 24-end

#### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 22nd November 2020

## Christ The King

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

For our occasional series about saints: 22nd November is also the feast day of **St Cecilia**, a third century martyr in Rome, who was reburied in the church bearing her name in the district of Transtevere. She is known as the patron saint of music, because she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married, and is represented in art with an organ or organ-pipes in her hand. A Collect for St Cecilia

O God, who gladden us each year with the feast day of your handmaid Saint Cecilia, grant, we pray, that what has been devoutly handed down concerning her may offer us examples to imitate and proclaim the wonders worked in his servants by Christ your Son, who lives and reigns ...

There will be some **Advent** resources produced for use online and offline next week, and we are all actively thinking about how we shall mark Christmas this year. The key not here is flexibility, because we simply don't know at this stage what we will be able to do and what will be difficult or impossible.

Fr David



## 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; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

For 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.

## 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.

## 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.'

## Post Communion

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**

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## NOTICES

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be back in the hall. Please continue to be generous.

## Knit and Natter - November 2020

With many thanks to Vanessa, we shall be meeting for the next few weeks via Zoom, on Thursday mornings from 11.15am to 11.55am. Please ring Jenny on 01392 498725 for the access numbers. Meanwhile, keep busy with knitting, sewing, card-making and cooking, to help us through this quiet month.

Ian Totterdell has completed the **Hospiscare Marathon in a Month**. Thanks to those who have given already; with gift aid the total is now just over £400, which is amazing! Ian is still accepting donations in person or through a just giving page. Details below: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-Totterdell1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-Totterdell1)