

St John's, Pevensey Road

www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 22nd November: Christ the King

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Grace, Angela, Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Kath, Ali, Jackie F, Ian M.
and Brenda R.

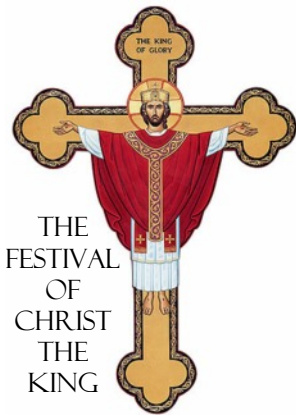
Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time,
especially Peter Clarke, Joseph Quartey-Cofie, Maggie,
Jean Young, Reginald Wartemberg, Meriel Curtis, and Donald Palmer,

...and all who mourn.

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - albeit online during "Lockdown 2.0". View via the Broadcast Page of our website, or listen via the Media/Audio page. www.stjohnspsenvenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast



This week:

The church is open for private prayer on weekday mornings 9:30 - 12:30.

"Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will let you know how to join in.

The Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood, writes:

If you had told me this time last year what was going to happen in 2020, I don't think I would have believed you. Every aspect of our lives, physical, emotional, economic, and even spiritual have been affected. The things so many of us hold as sacred - health, freedom, employment, family, and social interaction have been affected. It is so easy to look back to the time before COVID as a care free utopia, we say things like 'when we can get back to normal' as if the world before 2020 was a perfect place, which we all know it wasn't!!

For too long our society has lived under the myth that we just need to look after ourselves and our immediate families to gain happiness and contentment. COVID has starkly reminded us that we share a connection with every other human being on the planet, and the natural world that nourishes and sustains us. As people of faith we believe in a God who created all that is good and wills us to be co-creators in his glorious kingdom.

The feast of Christ the King at the end of the church's year reminds us that we live in Christ's kingdom; a kingdom of love, truth, and justice. A kingdom where we are loved as unique and beautiful, made in God's image. A kingdom that we inherit through the waters of Baptism. It is a relatively new feast, inaugurated in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. At a time of rising levels of fascism and dictatorships this feast was created to counter the claims of secularism by holding up the model of Christ, as King of the Creation, whose just and gentle rule is supreme.

Christ the King concludes the Christian year with a climactic celebration that focuses on Christ as glorified Lord and King - a powerful reminder that praise of his Kingship is always the theme of the calendar. In addition, this festival also deepens awareness of the final end of all things in the triumph of Christ. It brings the cycle of the liturgical year to an end, but looks forward to its turning again on Advent Sunday.

Henri Nouwen, in his *Sabbatical Journey*, wrote *"on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Christ is presented to us as the mocked King on the Cross as well of the King of the universe. The greatest humiliation and the greatest victory are both shown to us in today's liturgy. It is important to look at this humiliated and victorious Christ before we start the new liturgical year with the celebration of Advent. All through the year we have to stay close to the humiliation as well as to the victory of Christ, because we are called to live both in our own daily lives."*

May we seek to inhabit the humiliation and the victory.

+Will

Hymn of the Week: The King of Love

Henry Baker, editor-in-chief of Hymns Ancient and Modern, wrote this text based on Psalm 23, and it appeared in the appendix of that hymnal in 1868. The six verses of this hymn correlate closely to the six verses of Psalm 23, while drawing connections between this well-known Old Testament passage and several New Testament images, all on the theme of the Good Shepherd. In the first two verses, the connections are subtle. In verse 1, Baker adds a comment on the two-way, eternal nature of the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, referring to Jesus' words in John 10:28. By changing the words "still waters" to "streams of living water," Baker recalls Jesus' declaration that He is the source of these streams (John 4:14, 7:37-39). Verse 3 clearly refers to the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7). In the second half of the hymn, the connection between Old and New Testaments is more pronounced by the use of the words "cross" (verse 4), "chalice" (verse 5, referring to the cup in the Lord's Supper), and "Good Shepherd" (verse 6).

Tiffany Shomsky, Hymnary.org

*Do you have a favourite hymn for **Hymn of the Week**? Please contact Fr David or Rev Rosemary (details on back of pewsheets) or Richard our organist.*

'I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters

Isaiah 43:15-16



Very low tide at Bulverhythe, Mar. 2019

Environmental issues:

The World Climate Conference (COP26) is to be held in Britain, November 2021.

A 92 year-old man (who happens to be my Uncle Arnold) was interviewed whilst demonstrating in London with Extinction Rebellion earlier this year. *"I've got grandchildren, I'm desperately worried about them. What sort of future are they going to have? Parliament has recognised this as an emergency but they keep putting it off"*

If you are free and would like to watch all or part of the XR Climate Presentation he has been involved with, it will be on Saturday 28th Nov. 4-6 p.m. Contact me via the church office admstjohns30@gmail.com

Hope for the Future www.hfff.org.uk, which encourages and helps groups, including churches, to lobby their MP, has useful guidance on their site. This explains how a group letter can be written.

Alison N

Mass for the Festival of Christ the King

The Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. *Psalm 29.9b,10*

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Prayer of Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The kingdom is yours,
but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The power is yours,
but we trust in our own power and strength:

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

The glory is yours,
but we fall short of the glory of God:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis is said:

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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**

The Collect

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.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

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.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

For the Word of the Lord
All 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.

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 spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O 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 for ever.

H.W. Baker (1821-77)

Gospel Reading

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

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 25.31-46

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.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us with confidence present our prayers
and supplications to the throne of grace.

We pray for all those in positions of power,
that they may govern with wisdom and
integrity,
serving the needs of their people.
May your reign come;
All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign,
that it may extend your welcome to people of
every race and background.
May your kingdom come;
All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Christians of every denomination,
that together we may come to understand
the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in
baptism.
May your dominion come;
All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose commitment to truth
brings them into conflict with earthly powers,
that they may have the courage to endure.
May your rule come;
All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community of faith,
that attentive to your word
we may always worship in spirit
and in truth.

May your reign come;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God,
you have taught us that the power
of the heart
is greater than the power of wealth
and might.

Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment
of your reign.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our
King;

to him be glory and power for ever.

All Amen.

The Peace is introduced

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the
whole. Let the peace of Christ rule
in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always
with you.

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and
wine are placed upon it.*

Music: *Air from 'Water Music' (Handel)*

Blessed be God, who enthrones us with Christ
in the heavenly realms.

May we feed upon the bread of God
and drink the royal wine of heaven.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness
you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only
Son,

to be our great high priest and king of all
creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all
upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this
perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your
creatures,

that he may bring before your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels
and all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**All 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his
death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and
this cup
and we thank you for counting us
worthy
to stand in your presence and
serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one
cup,
so that we, in the company of Saint John
the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the
Mother of God, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.
All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole
company of heaven,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share
in one bread.

Agnus Dei is said:

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.

Communion is received

Music during Communion:

March from 'Scipio' (Handel)

Prayer after 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.

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have
set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise
your name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

Christ our King make you faithful and
strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Concluding voluntary: *Arrival of the
Queen of Sheba (Handel)*

“Stir Up Sunday”

Today is the last Sunday of the church year, what used to be known as Stir Up Sunday, based on the Book of Common Prayer collect for today, when people traditionally made their Christmas puddings and cakes.



For several years now, Waitrose have sold a “Christmas cake kit”, originally launched by Delia Smith, one of the more benign of celebrity cooks. In the kit there are little packs containing exactly the right amount of flour, brown sugar, nuts, fruit and even little weighed out sachets of black treacle and spices - the best quality ingredients in exactly the right proportions. Yes, this kit appears to contain all that is necessary to make our Christmas cake, just as we are told that the

scriptures contain all that is necessary for our salvation.

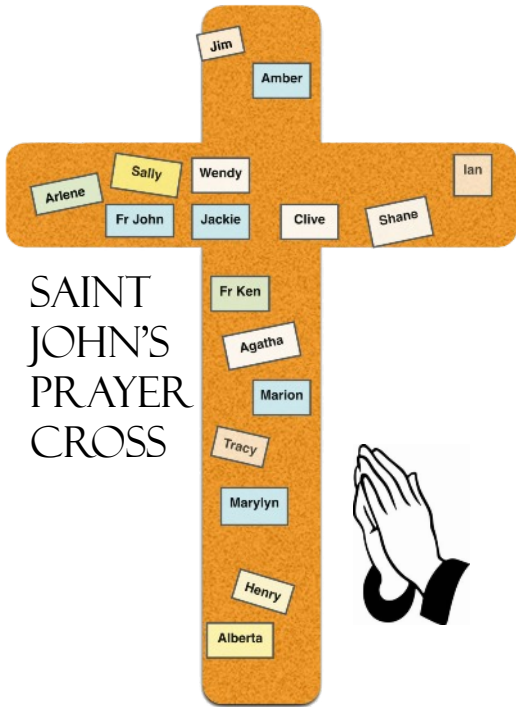
Today marks the end of the church year, and it certainly has an end of term feel about it, with stirring readings alluding to the kingship of Christ. Next week we can start afresh as it were, as we leave behind Year A with most of its Gospel readings from Matthew, and move to Year B with readings mainly from Mark. Like the different styles of cooking exhibited by various celebrity chefs, our selection of readings today represent the great mixture of styles of writing in the Bible. From Ezekiel, representing the prophets - people who used different forms of language, poetry, cajoling and acting to try to guide God’s people in the way God wanted them to live their lives. To Paul’s letters encouraging the fledgling Christian churches. To the Gospels: how fitting that the final scripture reading of our church year leaves us with the image of a kingly Christ accentuating the risks and rewards of ignoring or following his teaching.

And fascinating also how we as Christians can look back through the Old Testament, and find how little silver charms of the promise of Jesus’ coming have been mixed in to various passages, like the words of Ezekiel, today. Just as promises of his return and the coming of his kingdom are mixed into the New.

But even though Waitrose’s cake pack contains what is necessary to make cake, it does carry some small print. It contains the main ingredients, but you have to add one or two vital ingredients yourself, things like eggs and butter. Plus energy of course, for all that stirring. And the time and patience to see the whole project through.

By the same token, although the scriptures contain all that is necessary for our salvation, we have to add some ingredients ourselves: time to read, to allow ourselves to be stirred, to be penitent, to pray, to allow ourselves to be fed. Perhaps in this end of term week we can find some time just to sit quietly, to reflect on the challenging year gone by, and whether we need to review, or renew, or replenish our personal list of ingredients!

Rosemary



The Small Print for today's service:

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