

**Ashburton and Moorland Team**

**Christ the King**

**21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**



## ¶ The Gathering

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

### ***Hymn – O worship the King***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjwsYu3Tx6A>

O worship the King all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing his power and his love:  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,  
Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;  
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender! How firm to the end!  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

O measureless Might, ineffable Love,  
While Angels delight to hymn thee above,  
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
With true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

Words: Robert Grant

## ***Prayer of Preparation***

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## ***Prayers of Penitence***

### *The Summary of the Law*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

## ***Confession***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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

### ***Gloria in Excelsis***

**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***

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.**

## **.¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

### ***Old Testament Reading***

*Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14*

As I watched,  
thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One took his throne;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning fire.  
A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his presence.  
A thousand thousand served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.  
The court sat in judgement,  
and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.  
To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,

that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***New Testament Reading***

*Revelation 1:4b-8*

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn – You are the King of Glory**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKvyZg0Qfgw>

You are the King of Glory,  
you are the Prince of Peace,  
you are the Lord of heaven and earth,  
you're the Son of righteousness.  
Angels bow down before You  
worship and adore, for  
you have the words of eternal life,  
you are Jesus Christ the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Hosanna to the King of Kings!  
Glory in the highest heaven,  
for Jesus the Messiah reigns.  
(repeat)

Words: Mavis Ford  
© 1978 SpringtideWord Music

### ***Gospel Reading***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 18:33-37*

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

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

## ***The Sermon***

This Sunday we are celebrating “Christ the King” and our readings and hymns are full of words like dominion and power, kingdom and crown – all relating to Jesus.

And yet in this context, some thoughtful people might well be puzzled about the stories we hear at Christmas about a humble birth, a tiny babe, and the stories in the gospels about Jesus siding with the beggars and prostitutes, and challenging the authorities.

There is a real puzzle here – how can Jesus also be Christ the King?

Philip Pullman, the famous children’s author has written a book (which I would like to read but haven’t!) imagining that Jesus and Christ are two different people. Pullman, no Christian, feels he can relate to Jesus as a loving and caring man, but not to the Christ as authoritarian and judgemental King.

“Jesus” is the name that Mary was asked by the Angel Gabriel to give her baby. It was a common enough name – there are quite a few other Jesus’ in the bible - Jesus Barabbas, Jesus ben Ananias, Jesus ben Sirach. It’s perhaps a derivative of Joshua. The name Jesus certainly wasn’t a particularly special name.

And the ordinariness of his name meant that as he grew up he would have been treated just the same as any other boy. To distinguish him from other Jesus’, at school he would have been called Jesus, son of Joseph. In Scotland, Jesus McJoseph!

This is very different from, say, being born as the son of a King, and growing up as a prince. It’s the fact that Jesus was of humble origin that makes it so easy for us to relate to him as a likeable person or a friend. And he remained like this for the rest of his life in the eyes of the ordinary people.

But his close friends, his disciples, began to see another side of him, and Jesus himself, perhaps with his mother’s encouragement felt that God had a new title and a new role for him – Messiah – the Chosen One, the Son of God

And it was then but a short step for his followers (and critics) to start using the word King for him, and then the word Christ – the anointed one. And so he was referred to as Jesus the Christ, and Christ the King.

What bothers Philip Pullman is that, in his experience, authority is generally corrupt. Someone who climbs up the social ladder to a position such as King typically has to have a selfish determination to push aside rivals, to exercise brutal power to suppress opposition, to become distant and untouchable (literally) as befits their new status.

You don't need to look far these days to see Kings and Presidents who have completely lost the common touch, who reckon that they are above the law, untouchable.

And, sadly, there are plenty of instances in church history where senior church people – Popes, Cardinals, Bishops – have become corrupt – hoarding wealth, ignoring the poor, punishing the disobedient. In this, Pullman is rightly critical of the church – as indeed we all should be when that sort of thing is going on.

However, Jesus throughout his entire ministry was incredibly aware of the pressures that power, or pride, or wealth, or any other selfish obsession can place on people, and didn't hesitate to name such behaviours as sins.

The authority that Jesus gradually gained amongst common people, and which led, for example, to accolades on Palm Sunday, was a wonderful affirmation of the genuine respect and love that he inspired. Similarly Pilate was deeply challenged by Jesus, he couldn't make him out – Jesus didn't appear to respect authority, yet he possessed it!

All his life Jesus lived out his deep personal commitment against the corruption of power – and in the end, suffered and died for it.

There are times when we need the encouragement and support of Jesus as he walks alongside us through darkness or despair. And there are times when we want to draw strength and joy from our appreciation of Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the King – celebrating that we, too, are glad citizens of his Kingdom.

Can Jesus be both at once? Well, yes he can, just as a good parent can sometimes be playful and fun to be with, and at other times be looked up to, strong and authoritative.

Thank you, Jesus, for being the best King ever!

Amen

### ***The Nicene Creed***

***I / We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***I / 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.***

***I / 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.***

***I / We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
I / We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
I / We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

## ***The Peace***

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

**The peace of the Lord be always with us.**

### ***Hymn – Christ triumphant***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0r3EogSdfPU>

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King.  
Lord of heav'n our lives sustaining  
hear us as we sing:  
Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name!

Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Pow'r and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:  
Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.

Suffering Servant scorned, ill-treated,  
victim, crucified!  
Death is though the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:  
Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.

Priestly King, enthroned forever  
high in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
Stifle hymns of love:  
Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.

So, our heart and voices raising  
Through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon You gazing,  
this shall be our song:  
Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.      Words: Michael Saward  
© 1996 Michael Saward/Jubilee Hymns

### ***Prayers of Intercession***

We pray to God our Eternal Father  
through our Saviour Jesus  
who is both Christ the King and the Son of Man  
and who understands our needs and the needs of this world.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Eternal Father,  
we pray for your church,  
of which your Son is King.  
We pray that you will draw us together  
and unite us in the love of Christ  
that we may proclaim with one voice  
your justice and righteousness in a broken world.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Eternal Father,  
we pray for your world,  
of which your Son is King.  
We pray for peace, reconciliation and healing  
in the places of war and hatred.  
We pray that the nations of this world  
may be united and subject to the rule of Christ the King,  
through whom and for whom all things were created.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Eternal Father,  
we pray for our communities  
of which your Son is King.  
We pray for the communities of our friends and families,  
our church and our places of work and study.  
Help us to know the people around us  
as our brothers and sisters in Christ  
and to serve them as Christ the King would serve them.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Eternal Father,  
we pray for all those who suffer,  
among whom your Son is King.  
We pray that they will know  
the presence of the Son of Man alongside them  
and the power of Christ the King within them  
bringing peace and healing according to their needs.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Eternal Father,  
we give thanks to you for all that you do in our lives.  
We commend to you all those for whom we have prayed  
and ask that you use us and our prayers  
to make a difference in their lives  
for we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and King.

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

**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.**

*(For those in church, the Eucharistic prayer comes here)*

## ***Hymn – Crown him with many crowns***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7OCs0d\\_4vM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7OCs0d_4vM)

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne,  
while heaven's eternal anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died to be  
your saviour and your matchless king  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life  
triumphant from the grave,  
who rose victorious from the strife  
for those he came to save:  
his glories now we sing  
who died and reigns on high;  
he died eternal life to bring  
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace  
his kingdom is at hand;  
from pole to pole let warfare cease  
and Christ rule every land!  
A city stands on high,  
his glory it displays,  
and there the nations 'Holy' cry  
in joyful hymns of praise.

Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres  
in majesty sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail,  
for you have died for me;  
your praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity!

Words: Matthew Bridges

### ¶ *Ending*

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.**

## ***The Blessing***

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**