

**~AT HOME WORSHIP~**

**Sunday 21st November 2021**

**Theme: “Listen to my voice”**

**Christ the King**

**Preparation**

We come today to acknowledge Christ as King.

His throne is a cross, and he reigns from high heaven.

Beauty and holiness are the marks of his kingdom.

He is the face of God revealed in human form.

Let us keep our eyes fixed on him:

King Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life.

**Hymn/Song: Lord of all hopefulness**

[**https://youtu.be/DShGTCZwAtw**](https://youtu.be/DShGTCZwAtw)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

Whose trust, ever child-like,

No cares could destroy,

Be there at our waking,

And give us, we pray,

Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,

At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,

Whose strong hands were skilled

at the plane and the lathe,

Be there at our labours,

And give us, we pray,

Your strength in our hearts, Lord,

At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,

Your hands swift to welcome,

Your arms to embrace,

Be there at our homing,

And give us, we pray,

Your love in our hearts, Lord,

At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,

Whose voice is contentment,

whose presence is balm,

Be there at our sleeping,

and give us, we pray,

Your peace in our hearts, Lord,

at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (1931)

**Opening Prayer**

**King of kings and Lord of lords, you are our God.**

**Before time began you were.**

**Your voice, Lord God, is louder than the roars of the oceans.**

**You are more powerful than the crashing waves of the sea.**

**You are forever and forever and forever.**

**You were. You are. You will be.**

**Amen.**

**Prayer for the Day**

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.

**Saying Sorry**

**O Lord our mighty God,**

**we have heard but not always listened to you:**

**with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.**

**We have seen need and close our eyes to it:**

**with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.**

**We have closed our ears to cries for help:**

**with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.**

**We have known your truth and yet followed lies and falsehoods:**

**with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.**

**Amen.**

***Take a moment to pause and reflect on the words above and let the voice of God speak softly to you. Then slowly say the following prayer, allowing God’s forgiveness to dwell in you.***

The Lord says:

be assured your sins are forgiven,

your slate is wiped clean.

Listen to the word of God and know its truth.

**Amen.**

**BIBLE READING**

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# John 18:33-37

**33**Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

**34**“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

**35**“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

**36**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.”

**37**“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.”

**REFLECTION TIME**

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**Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication**

**Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet**

Have you ever been in a situation where you were trying to listen out for someone’s voice? For example, in a busy shop and you had become separated from the person you were with, or in a crowded station, when you were searching for the person who had come to meet you? You know the voice well and you try to tune your ears accordingly.

Some people are able to mimic another person’s voice, or may just sound like someone else. Have you ever been misled – thinking you heard someone’s voice, but it wasn’t them? Fortunately, in everyday life, this doesn’t happen very often. Usually, especially if we know someone really well, we can tell the real voice from the mimic’s – it is hard to impersonate someone perfectly.

Jesus says that those who belong to him, who seek to follow the truth, listen to his voice. We will only be able to do that if we can recognise his voice in a world of competing voices. This isn’t something that will happen overnight. But it can and will happen if we work at it; if we listen to his voice often enough that we begin to know its cadences, its rhythms and patterns. We do that primarily through engaging with Scripture.

Four Gospels give us four windows into the things Jesus said and did. The Old Testament gives us, among other things, a picture of what the Messiah would be like. Through reading the Bible we learn to recognise Jesus’ voice – or God’s voice, if you prefer. But it is not only by reading; personal reading of Scripture is a relatively modern phenomenon. Hearing it, learning and retelling its stories, talking about it, wrestling with it together – these are the ways that God’s people learn to hear God’s voice and listen to his truth.

In answer to Pilate’s repeated questions about whether or not he was a king, Jesus said: ‘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.’

**Family Song - Jesus I belong to You (by Jill Young)**

<https://youtu.be/RhtkIfLIjv0>

**Time for Prayer**

**Let us pray**

Loving God,

we pray for those in authority, that they may not manipulate truth to retain power.

**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**

We pray for those exploited or abused by those in positions of power.

**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**

We pray for those robbed of their freedom for challenging injustice.

**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**

We pray for our church, that in confidence we would share your truths that we know,

and in humility seek out the truths we have yet to learn.

**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**

We pray for one another and ourselves, that we would be open to truth and eager for wisdom.

**May the kingship of Christ guide them.**

**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

**Hymn/Song – We have a gospel to proclaim**

<https://youtu.be/-TVTmq7THU4>

We have a gospel to proclaim

Good news for men in all the earth;

The gospel of a Saviour’s name,

We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,

Not in a royal house or hall

But in a stable dark and dim,

The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,

Hated by those He came to save,

In lonely suffering on the cross,

For all He loved His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,

Empty the tomb, for He was free.

He broke the power of death and hell

That we might share His victory.

Tell of His reign at God’s right hand,

By all creation glorified,

He sends His Spirit on His Church,

To live for Him, the lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King,

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,

This gospel message we proclaim,

We sing His glory, tell His worth.

*Edward J Burns*

**Closing Prayer**

**Christ our King,**

**as we go from this place,**

**assure of your presence with us –**

**for we belong to you.**

**Help us to look for truth in all places,**

**to seek and listen to your voice,**

**and to use your power to serve.**

**Bring heaven to earth and reign in our lives.**

**We pray in your name, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Look for truth in all places.

Seek out the wise.

Use your power to serve.

And bring heaven to earth through your life,

your words and your prayers.

In Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**



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