



‘Worship at home’ November 20th 2022



We come to worship Christ,
the visible image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of creation, the eternal God:
the one through whom all things were created,
and in whom all things are held together.

Light a candle to remind you of Christ’s presence
with us always.

Opening based on Psalm 46

God is our shelter and strength.

God defends and protects us.

Come, see the glorious things that God can do!

Be still in God’s presence.

Know that God alone is the one true God.

God will be honoured throughout the earth;

God will be honoured in every nation.

God is our shelter and strength.

God defends and protects us.

**When have you known God’s presence with you,
giving you shelter or protection?**

Today is ‘Christ the King Sunday’ and marks the end of the Christian liturgical year. Next week is the beginning of Advent, with its proclamation of hope and expectation. We are reminded that Christ has come, and we celebrate his birth at Christmas; Christ is risen and with us in the person of the Holy Spirit; and Christ will come again, bringing in the fullness of God’s kingdom.



**What images come to mind
when you hear the term
‘king’?**

**What attributes do you think
a king should show?**

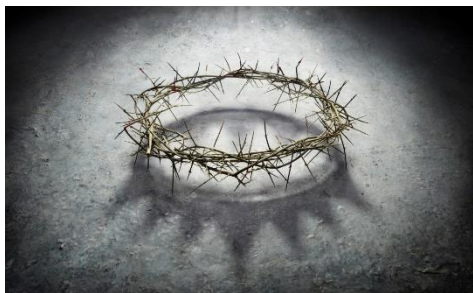
For many of us, the image of kings and kingdoms conjure up thoughts of tyrants and oppression. Even now, we see world leaders battling for power and for the control of trade, weapons, land, resources, and people. However, the ancient Israelites believed a King was divinely ordained, chosen to represent God's reign on earth. The role of a King was not to lord it over others in power, but to serve. It was the King's job to protect the poor, advocate for the underprivileged and ensure they were not being exploited. They were to rule justly and fairly, to provide shelter, defence and protection to those in their care. The Israelites were expecting a King who would come to overthrow the Roman rule and bring in God's kingdom of justice and peace.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

The Lord says, "The time is coming when I will choose as king a righteous descendant of David. That king will rule wisely and do what is right and just throughout the land.

When he is king, the people of Judah will be safe, and the people of Israel will live in peace. He will be called "The Lord Our Salvation."

Good News Bible



Jesus was not a king in the manner that we might expect. He held no power, no prestige or political status. He was not well accepted by the Jewish authorities, and was eventually arrested, tried, and executed as a traitor.

Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place called "The Skull," they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing." They divided

his clothes among themselves by throwing dice. The people stood there watching while the Jewish leaders made fun of him: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah whom God has chosen!" 2

The soldiers also made fun of him: they came up to him and offered him cheap wine, and said, "Save yourself if you are the king of the Jews!" Above him were written these words: "This is the King of the Jews. One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear

God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."

Good News Bible

Jesus did not set out to overthrow the existing political powers and gain authority over them: the glory of God is not in conquest and conflict. Rather, Jesus subverted the reigning powers: his authority came through humility and forgiveness, compassion

and wisdom. God's kingdom is one of service and sacrifice, and of justice and peace. In Jesus Christ we find shelter, defence and protection in the storms of life, as we know God's presence to be with us.



Prayer

*May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done here on earth,
just as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10*



The Kingdom of God is at hand;
but, it often feels a million miles away.
You demonstrated its grace and showed its power,
but the signs often appear faded or absent in our world:
may Your Kingdom come

We need Your Kingdom to come, O God,
in all its fullness, in all its glory;

this waiting, this “now and not yet” experience of Your reign
is hard and frustrating:

may Your Kingdom come

And so we pray for Your Kingdom to be revealed in our lives,
turning our sickness and sin, our brokenness and fear
into friendship and compassion, wholeness and joy:

may Your Kingdom come

We pray for Your Kingdom to be revealed in our communities,
turning our division and suspicion,
our judgement and our competition
into fellowship and care, compassion and service:

may Your Kingdom come

We pray for Your Kingdom to be revealed in our world,
turning our war and our disparities,
our consumption and our self-interest
into peace and collaboration, stewardship and reverence:

may Your Kingdom come

Your Kingdom is here, and it is coming, O God.

Make us faithful heralds of its message
and tireless practitioners of its ways.

Amen.

~ adapted from John van de Laar

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Closing

It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and King. Our mission in life is to make his kingdom a reality among us and to bring it to those around us by our words and deeds. The way to do this is to live as he lived: for others, in love and service.

May almighty God bless you for this task:
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
and to give shape to his kingdom. **Thanks be to God!**

~ from [Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration](#)



Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(Wolfgang Rattay/Reuters)