‘Worship at home’
November 22nd 2026



Today is known as **Christ the King**,
or **Reign of Christ Sunday**
in the church’s liturgical year.
We are invited to open our eyes to the kingdom of God,
and to seeing Christ in the world around us.

Where do you see Christ in the world around you?

Opening prayer:
Open my eyes
to see as you see and weep as you weep

Open my heart
to love the broken and care for those without hope

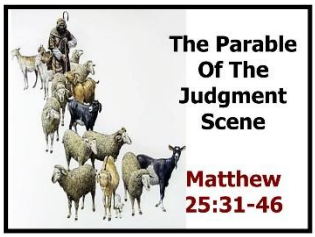
Open my hands
to hold what I have lightly and to share cheerfully

Open my mouth
to speak for the voiceless and to shout for mercy

Open my ears
to the gentle whispers of your Spirit and to obey what you say

Open up my life
to the call of your voice and the needy cries of the dying
Amen *~ written by Fred Drummond (adapted) http://www.tearfund.org/*

The author of Matthew gives a series of stories told by Jesus as he prepares to leave his disciples, on how they were to live while waiting for his return. A lesson on the foolish bridesmaids reminds them to be wise, watchful and ready. The parable of the ‘talents’ encourages them to not sit around waiting, but to use their gifts to grow the kingdom of God. This next scripture is often referred to as ‘The Last Judgment’, again challenging Jesus’ followers to think about how they live in the meantime.



Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the righteous people at his right and the others at his left. Then the King will say to the people on his right, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.'

The righteous will then answer him, "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' The King will reply, "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'

"Then he will say to those on his left, "Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels! I was hungry but you would not feed me, thirsty but you would not give me a drink; I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me; I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me.'

Then they will answer him, "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and we would not help you?' The King will reply, "I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.' These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go to eternal life."



Good News Bible

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Jesus' words here challenge us too on how we live in the meantime. **As Christians, we believe that Christ has come, the kingdom of God is with us, yet Christ will come again bringing that kingdom to fulfillment.** When we live out the values that Christ proclaimed, of compassion, hospitality and justice, we make the kingdom of God evident here and now. We sometimes read this scripture as showing an angry and vengeful God who divides people into good and bad. However, this is not the image of God revealed in Jesus' other teachings of love and grace.

Jesus' call to love our neighbour as ourselves not only includes our friends and fellow church-goers, but also those who are in need, who are 'down and out' and often feel cast aside. In this story, neither the sheep nor the goats acted in ways that were "bad" or sinful; they did not reject those who were suffering, they simply did not see the need to help.



Who and where are the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and imprisoned in our world?

What are our attitudes towards them?

What structures in our society serve to perpetuate their situation/s?

How else might we respond?

Rather than being a final judgement, this story serves to remind us that we each make choices as to how we live, and our attitudes and behaviours towards others. When we open our eyes to see those who suffer, the least among us, then we also see Christ. When we choose to respond with compassion, hospitality and justice we show Christ to these people, living out the values of God's kingdom.

How might you live so that the kingdom of God is made evident here and now?

Prayer:



Pray for those who are hungry.
Pray for those who will not feed them.

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.
Pray for the wealthy who do not care.

Pray for those who are homeless.
Pray for those who deny them shelter.

Pray for the sick and lonely.
Pray for those who will not give them comfort.

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.
Pray for those who will not listen.

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.
Pray for those who exploit them.

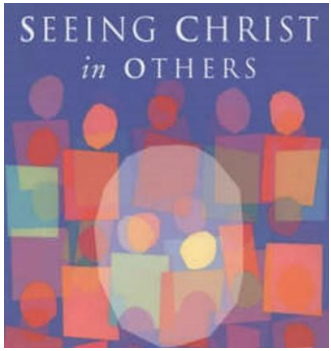
Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.
Pray for those who discriminate against them.

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.
Pray for those who cater to the greedy
and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.

~ adapted from prayer written by Rebecca Sutton,
Program Coordinator of Global Women's Exchange.
http://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_labor-sunday_worship-resources#liturgy

Closing:

May the Christ who feeds the hungry
walk with you on the road.
May the Christ who cares for others
stretch out your hands to serve.
May the Christ who welcomes
the stranger
open your hearts to love.



May you see the face of Christ
in everyone you meet,
and may everyone you meet
see the face of Christ in you.
Go in love. Amen