

## MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SHEET

Christ the King  
'Stir Up Sunday'!  
22nd November 2020



**Don't forget to have your Christmas pudding or Christmas cake close at hand for this service...cooked, uncooked, steamed or un-steamed!**

### Words of Welcome

Today, the last Sunday in the Liturgical year, we celebrate the feast day of Christ the King. But this is a King like no other... A king who seeks the lost, feeds the hungry and strengthens the weak And calls us to follow in his ways

*Lighting of the candle....*

### OPENING RESPONSES

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
**We worship the Lord with gladness, we come into his presence with joy.**  
Know that the Lord is God, and it is God that made us.  
**We are God's people the sheep of his pasture.**  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.  
**We give thanks to God and bless God's name.**  
Let us worship the Lord our God.

### HYMN/ SONG: LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING

Let all the world in every corner sing:  
**My God and King!**  
The heavens are not too high,  
his praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
his praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
**My God and King!**

Let all the world in every corner sing:  
**My God and King!**  
The church with psalms must shout,  
no door can keep them out;  
but above all, the heart  
must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
**My God and King!**

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

### CONFESION

Wherever and whenever we have become lost, God seeks us out to draw us back into the divine presence. Howsoever we have strayed, God calls us back to the path, forgiven and redeemed.

*We take a moment of quiet reflection as we bring to mind our failures and our frailty...*

**Lord Jesus, Judge of the nations:**  
We confess that we have not seen your face  
Among our neighbours in need.  
We have not shared our food with the hungry;  
We have not offered clothes to the destitute  
Or shelter to the homeless.  
We have not welcomed the stranger,  
Nor have we visited prisoners.  
We have not paid attention to these,  
Your sisters and brothers,  
And in our neglect we have failed to serve you.  
Lord, forgive us;  
Open our eyes to recognise your beloved family,  
And give us the blessing of sincere repentance  
That we may know the joy of eternal life

With you and all the saints  
In this world and in the world to come.  
Amen

## ABSOLUTION

However long we wander,  
However far we stray,  
God's steadfast love endures forever.  
Sisters and brothers,  
be assured that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

May God forgive you,  
Christ renew you  
And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up, O God  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, richly bearing the fruit of good works,  
may by you be richly rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ  
who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.  
Amen.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

For the word of God in Jesus,  
For God's wisdom all around us,  
For God's word and wisdom in us  
Thanks be to God.

## The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Here the gospel according to Matthew.  
Glory to you O Lord.

**When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.**

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

## REFLECTION

*At some point during the reflection, we will say this prayer together...*

Stir up, O God  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, richly bearing the fruit of good works,  
may by you be richly rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ  
who is alive with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.  
Amen.

As we also release those who wrong us.  
Do not test us beyond our enduring;  
Save us from all that is evil.  
For you embrace justice, love and peace,  
Now and to the end of time,  
Amen

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you...  
And also with you.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

With the whole church  
We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
Befriended by Christ,  
Empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere,  
We affirm God's goodness  
At the heart of humanity,  
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation,  
We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,  
The unfolding purposes of God,  
Forever at work in ourselves and the world.

## PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

(This week our Intercessions are written by Debbie Keighley)

### Response:

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

## A MODERN VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

God in heaven,  
Your name is to be honoured.  
May your new community of hope  
Be realised on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the essentials of life.  
Release us from our wrongdoing

*We take a moment to write a peace greeting to one another whilst we are singing our final hymn:*

## HYMN: ALL THE PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL,

*All the people that on earth do dwell  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,  
come ye before him, and rejoice.*

*The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.*

*For why? the Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure..*

*To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heaven and earth adore,  
from men and from the angel-host  
be praise and glory evermore.*

*William Kethe, (fl 1559-died 1594)*

## A BLESSING

May the God who seeks the lost keep you;  
May God who brings back the wandering heart

uphold you;  
May God who binds up the injured heal you;  
May God who strengthens the weak empower you,  
Now and forever.  
And the Blessing of the Creator, the Redeemer and the  
Sustainer, be with you now and forevermore.  
Amen

## SENDING RESPONSES

This is the day that God has made;  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**  
We will not offer to God  
**Offerings that cost us nothing.**  
Go in peace to love and to serve;  
**We will seek peace and pursue it.**  
In the name of the Trinity of love,  
**God in community, holy and one.**

## A PRAYER FOR THE COMING WEEK.

Christ the king,  
we see you, kneeling at our feet,  
showing us how to serve and be served.  
Lord we see you, touching the unclean,  
showing us how to heal and be healed.  
Lord we see you, hanging out with outcasts,  
showing us how to be in community.  
So may we follow your example,  
seeing the need in our world and being first in line to  
step up and make a difference.  
May we also recognise our own limitations and make  
room for those who are differently abled  
and differently gifted,  
knowing that in the economy of your kingdom,  
no gift is wasted, no talent rejected.  
Lord, when we despair at the state of our world,  
may our despair compel us to join you  
in the work of peace and justice for all,  
beginning wherever we are, following your lead.  
Lord may we know your healing, in our lives,  
in the life of our community, in the life of the world.  
May we live so conscious of your presence  
in all that we cannot turn our back  
or withhold your love from another  
but know fulfilment  
only when we have given our all to serve you

by serving our neighbour.  
So God,  
one radical act of kindness at a time,  
may your kingdom come, on earth as in heaven.  
Amen.

## QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS TO PONDER IN THE COMING WEEK.

### Reflection

Already here.  
Unrecognised.  
Loitering in the shadows with the poor and the outcasts,  
the downtrodden and the marginalised.  
Already here, bringing light into darkness and hope into  
fear and we shall see God when we look at our  
neighbour.  
Already here.  
Incarnation.  
God with us now.  
God's kingdom, not some future hope but here,  
now as Christ lives among us, always showing up,  
bringing light and love, revealing the kingdom.  
Already here

Where might we encounter Jesus in disguise in our  
community today?  
How do we treat him?  
Can you think of practical ways to offer support to those  
who most need it, and often can't get it?

### Acknowledgements

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crafting this service

- Wild Goose Iona Abbey Worship Book.
- Common Worship Living Word
- Spill the Beans
- Roots for Worship.