

The Bride Valley Service for Sunday 22nd November 2020

Christ the King

This service can be accessed via the telephone on 01308 293062

Welcome, wherever you are, to our service as we celebrate Christ the King At the start of our service the Bible lifts our eyes with these words: Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honour and glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you - **And also with you**

CONFESSION

As we come into God's holy presence we confess our faults and failings For failing to love you with all our heart, mind, and strength, Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy For failing to love our neighbour as we love ourselves, Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy We turn to you for mercy and forgiveness, asking, Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy

ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE COLLECT (our special prayer for today)

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King, keep your 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 EPISTLE is from Ephesians1:15-end

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

THE GOSPEL is from Matthew 25:31-end

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger

and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life

REFLECTION

Are you an avid reader of an avid reader of Tolkein's books? I guess many of us have seen the film or read the book: Lord of the Rings Do you know what is the 3rd book in this trilogy? It's The Return of the King In all the oppressive darkness of evil, the horror of bloodshed and battles, the destruction of the environment, the suffering of the weak, the gathering darkness & the struggles of those who try to do what is right and keep going against all the odds there's **hope** - The King returns, and restores things, because he is King And similarly Jesus, our King, will do the same.

He will come to earth again to do 3 things

- 1 To remove all wrongs
- 2 To renew all things
- 3 To reign over all

1st Jesus the King will remove all wrong by revealing not just the sinful selfish actions of people but the thoughtless hidden attitudes of people. Not only is Covid a pandemic so is corruption. Matthew records Jesus' words. *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another - just like an eastern shepherd separates his grazing sheep from the greedy goats who'd come and join in.* Christ will come again to show people their hearts and separate the righteous from the wrongdoers, We know only too well these days that wrong and rebellion is a reality. But, it can be resolved by true repentance.

2nd Jesus the King will renew all things *The King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:* That which God planned from before the foundation of the world for our good (but was spoilt by man's selfishness & sin) will be restored. The blessed ones will inherit the kingdom of God prepared for them. Those who trust and follow the King are his Kingdom people.

3rd Jesus the King will reign over all. Paul says in Ephesians1:20 *He has seated him at His right hand in the heavenly places.* The Father has seated Jesus at his right hand on the throne of Heaven; and at the end of all things Christ will reign over not only heaven but earth. What is his by virtue of his 'thronely' right will be realized. He is King, and will be King over all.

In all this I love Paul's all-inclusive and encouraging words in v22 **ALL things** are under His feet. This phrase comes at least 4x in Scripture. This was first foreshadowed in Genesis 3:15 in God's curse on Satan *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."* How do you bruise your heel? When your heel hits something hard beneath it. Right at the start of the Bible, alongside the attack of Satan against humanity, God promised Adam and Eve that one day 'The Seed' of the Woman, the God Man, Jesus, would defeat evil and crush Satan's head under his heel. - Paul

applies this promise to every *principality and power*. Jesus in Matthew 25 foretold the *demise of the devil & his angels* - something that is repeated in the last book of the Bible, in Revelation 20. *The devil, who deceived the nations, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone*. Christians don't have to fall for demonic deceits or fear the Devil - they are defeated. Praise God, Jesus, the King, has the Evil One and his minions under his feet. *All things are under his feet*. And Ephesians 3:10 says: God wants this truth to be made known by the church *to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places*. Christians have the authority to remind the principalities and powers that they are defeated, and tell them to get behind us, just like Jesus did.

Do we feel anxious, overwhelmed, and defeated by opposition? Look to the bruised feet of Jesus and see Satan beneath his feet

-The King also has Sin under his feet. Jesus dealt with the root problem in our world - sin. Ephesians 1:7 says *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins*. Sin is under the King's feet. See those feet - they were pierced for our pardon. We don't have to strive for forgiveness just accept the free gift of grace.

Do we feel a failure? Do we feel defeated? Look to the feet of Jesus & see sin is under his feet. - The King has Death under his feet. Paul wrote in v19 *God's mighty power was at work in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places*. Our King has defeated death. He is risen, he is Lord. Death is not the final foe it is the final defeated foe

Do we feel fearful in these days of uncertainty of sickness and death? Look to the feet of Jesus. All that we fear is beneath the feet of our King.

-The King has Disease and suffering is under his feet, that's why the Syro-Phoenician woman with a demon possessed daughter fell at his feet, Jairus the synagogue leader with his sick daughter fell at his feet, the healed Samaritan leper returned to fall at his feet with gratitude

- Finally Ephesians 1:22 says the Church is under his feet *The Father put all things under His feet, and gave Him authority to be head over all things to the church*. In other words we, who have surrendered our lives to Jesus, are under his feet. Lazarus' sister, Mary, sat at Jesus feet, John the apostle in awe of the glorified king in the book of Revelation, fell at the feet, and we should in our worship. "Rejoice, the Lord is King" *ALL things are beneath his feet*

DECLARATION

Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ in the words of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles. At his coming he will put an end to all rule and all authority and power. for He must reign till he has put all enemies under His feet. This we have received, and this we believe. Amen.

cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7;23-25

And so, in the presence of Christ our King, we come to his throne to pray

And in response to the words **May your Kingdom come** we reply **May your will be done**

Thank you Jesus You reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There is no one like You. We recognise that *All things are beneath your feet*. So we open our hearts and place ourselves willingly under your authority, inviting you to reign in us and reign through us

May your Kingdom come **May your will be done**

Thank you Jesus you are King. We place under your feet our world riddled by wrong, and ruined by selfishness. We pray for the rulers of the nations that they may recognise your authority in their lives and your purposes for their nations. May they place their pride and power under your feet

May your Kingdom come **May your will be done**

Thank you Jesus you are King. We place under your feet the sickness that is plaguing every nation on earth. We give thanks for the promising signs of a vaccine - pray for those developing it, & we pray for all medical workers who will give it but are now having to cope with the daily, increasing, numbers of people in our hospitals. We pray also for those who struggle with fear, depression and bereavement. Give them your unfailing grace

May your Kingdom come **May your will be done**

Thank you Jesus you are King. We place under your feet your church entrusted with the light of the gospel and the promise of hope. keep us, your church, watchful and ready for your coming again when you will rule in righteousness and peace will prevail.

May your Kingdom come **May your will be done**

Thank you Jesus you are King. We place under your feet our fears, anxieties, problems and burdens. At your feet you lift up our heads to behold you in all your glory. We declare that there is nothing and no one greater than you. And give you our thanks

May your Kingdom come **May your will be done**

We gather all our prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us

**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**

Finally we pray God's blessing of peace on each other

**The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
may he turn his face towards us, and give us peace. Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us, and those whom we love and pray for this day and for evermore. Amen

Song: Rejoice the Lord is King - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDFAv0eh-s8>