

CHRIST THE KING
(22.11.20)

The organ plays as we gather for worship

The king of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
a ransomed soul, he leads me;
and where the fertile pastures grow,
with food from heaven feeds me.

Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
but in his love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with you, dear Lord, beside me;
your rod and staff my comfort still,
your cross before to guide me.

You spread a banquet in my sight
of grace beyond all knowing;
and, oh, the wonder and delight
from your pure chalice flowing!

And so through all the length of days
your goodness fails me never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house for ever!

Henry W Baker (1821 - 1877)

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.
and also with you.

We bow before your life, O God:
**which holds the world into a plan of grace
that will never be defeated.**

We bow before the Christ:
**who lives your radical love,
whose face turned towards a different royal dream.**

We bow before your Spirit:
**who shocks the universe
with the recreating, greening of life
in barren and burnt places.**

On this day, we worship you, O God.

WELCOME

CONFESSION

Christ, the One who reigns over all the world,
we come in our smallness to make our confession.
We always have something which we acknowledge
falls short of your hopes for our life with you.
There is no time when we come
with clean hands and pure hearts,
when we look at the great vision to which we are called.

**Remind us of the great hope to which we are called:
that we may follow the way of the cross behind you,
loving Jesus.**

We own that the suffering of the world is still there before us
and that we have not often responded to its weeping.
The homeless still seek for a dwelling place
in the courts of your temple, O God,
and the hungry still wait for their invitation
to share with us at the table of your feast.

The earth still struggles for survival, O God,
as we consume your creation
as though the resources which are there mean little
and were not intended for our children and their children's children.
Sometimes we find it hard to hope at all
as we work away at changing things for good
and see little for our efforts.

**Remind us of the great hope to which we are called:
that we may follow the way of the cross behind you,
loving Jesus.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Come to the feet of God,
come to the holy mountain of hope and joy
and the valleys in which the Spirit lives in every age.
Grace waits for us, forgiveness belongs to us.
let us receive it now and stand tall.
Amen.

COLLECT

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. **Amen.**

READINGS

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ephesians 1.15-end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and

authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25.31-end

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the 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 people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by 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 something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal 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 nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just 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 eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We are called to a great hope which travels like a flame before us, and which calls us on in the voice of the Loving Shepherd.

In the knowledge of that hope, we bring the world, the Church and the people before God in prayer.

We pray for all those in positions of power,
that they may govern with wisdom and integrity,
serving the needs of their people.

May your kingdom come;
your will be done.

We pray for the Church, the sign of your dream for creation,
that it may extend your welcome to people of every
race and background, age, gender and ability.

May your kingdom come;
your will be done.

We pray for Christians of every denomination,
that together we may come to understand
the plans you have for us, through our shared life.
We pray for the Christians we work alongside,
in the different communities of which we are a part.

May your kingdom come;
your will be done.

We pray for those whose commitment to truth
brings them into conflict with earthly powers,
that they may have the courage to endure.

May your kingdom come;
your will be done.

We pray for this community of faith, gathered in this space,
that attentive to your word
we may always worship in spirit and in truth.
May your kingdom come;
your will be done.

We name before God those who have asked for our prayers.

Even here, O God,
we know that there may be those among us
whose lives cry out for comfort, healing,
justice or forgiveness.
Give to us your heart for knowing pain,
give to us your mind for wise and gentle care,
and give to us your strength for keeping the faith.
This is our prayer for the coming days, O God.
Amen.

THE PEACE

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Colossians 3:14,15

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you.

May he guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.

May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors. **Amen.**

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

NOTICES

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:
Yours the glory...

Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:
Yours the glory...

Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory...

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:
Yours the glory...

Michael Seward (1932)

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Greeting, Confession and Assurance of Pardon from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *Liturgies for Daily Life* (SPCK, London, 2004) Copyright © Dorothy McRae-McMahon 2000. Used with permission of the author.

Collects, Peace, Affirmation of Faith & Intercessions adapted from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006

Blessing taken from Morning Prayer from Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer published by Collins. Used with permission.

Hymns from *Singing the Faith* (Canterbury Press Norwich, 2011)