



Worshipping & Praying Together as a community dispersed

during the week beginning
Sunday, 22nd November 2020
The Feast of Christ the King

The Parish of Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.

The worshipping communities of the Cathedral and St Peter's Hamilton.

It is our Patronal Festival this Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, or the Solemnity of Jesus Christ King of the Universe, and we are celebrating!

In recent years, our Patronal Festival has fallen on the same weekend as "Supercars", meaning planning a party was not an option... This year, the restrictions on worship, particularly singing in our churches (both choirs and congregational singing), and restrictions that would limit our options for that "party" due to the COVID pandemic, mean that we still have to cool our heels for another year...

We will celebrate at our two Eucharists on Sunday at Christ Church Cathedral at 8.00am and 10.30am and we warmly invite you to join with us.

The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in response to impact on world peace of the increased influence of secularism and "the rebellion of individuals and states against the authority of Christ that has produced deplorable consequences":

"If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God." *Pope Pius XI, Quas primas, §33, Libreria Editrice Vaticana*

Families@Five will be on Saturday, 5th December 2020 at 5.00pm at the Cathedral.

Eucharists are offered at Christ Church Cathedral on Sundays at 8.00am and 10.30am, and Monday to Friday at 8.30am (following Morning Prayer).

**Eucharists are also offered at St Peter's Hamilton
at 11.00am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

**Morning and Evening Prayer and Holy Communion (Wednesdays and Sundays)
are streamed each day:**

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXyas2uhJUNOnDetOpPdUOg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchcathedralnewcastle/>

The Feast of Christ the King

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

The Lord God says: 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.

Psalms 100

1 O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his face with songs of joy.

2 Know that the Lord he is God:

**it is he who has made us and we are his
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

3 Come into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him and bless his holy name.

**4 For the Lord is good his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

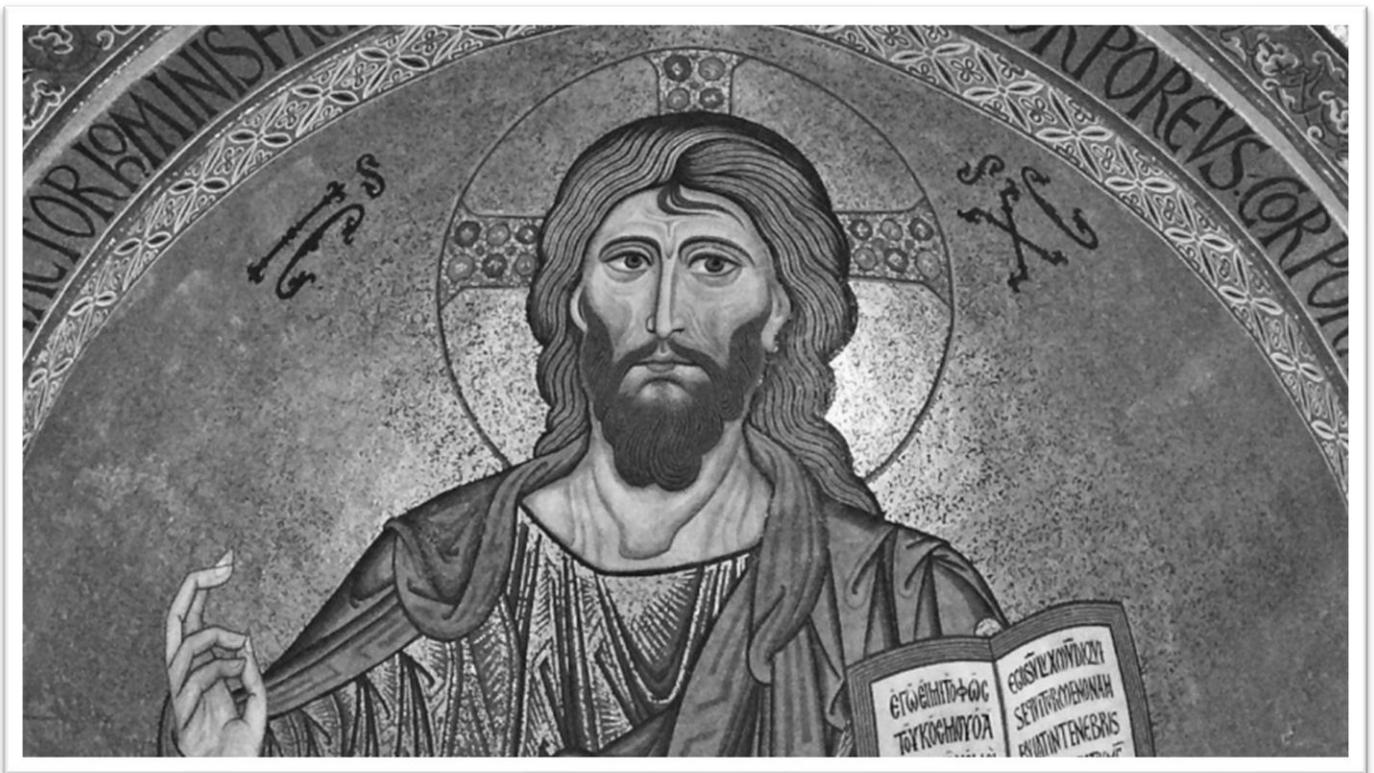
Ephesians 1: 15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward 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: 31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: “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 on a page by *The Very Reverend Katherine Bowyer* Christ the King

If, like our family, you have become fans of the Netflix series, *The Crown*, you'll know that series four started on Sunday evening. I've been a fan since the first series, with its lavish costumes and brilliant acting and superb writing. An early episode in the first series has King George VI speaking with the young Princess Elizabeth as he prepares for his coronation. Carolyn McDowell on her website records that in this episode, the King speaks to the young princess and says:

You have to anoint me, he tells her, otherwise I cannot be King.

"It is only when the holy oil touches me... I am transformed and brought into direct contact with the divine"... he tells her.

"I am forever changed... bound to God. It is the most important part of the ceremony", when the hands, the breast and the head are all anointed with the holy oil.¹

"Forever changed." We are anointed in our baptism, anointed in our confirmation, anointed when we pray for healing. Priests are anointed at their ordination, and these same priests anoint people as they draw close to the end of this life. Different oils, different moments, different prayers, yes, but in each moment, we are brought into contact with the Divine, and we are forever changed.

What does it mean for us, our anointing? What does it mean for us, to be "transformed and brought into direct contact with the divine"?

Last week in my sermon I spoke about how we hear these "hard sayings" in Matthew's Gospel in these weeks of Kingdom Season. I struggle with these hard sayings, and I suspect I'm not alone in this. We hear a tone of judgement, and, often we feel as if this judgement is directed at us, and we are found lacking. We are often quick to identify with those who are cast literally on the outer – or at least to empathise with them.

This weekend, we hear of the separatist king, and the sheep and the goats. As Anglicans, we don't like talking about the end times and judgement². That's one of the reasons why I think these "hard sayings" make us uncomfortable. As I said last week in my sermon:

These kingdom parables serve to remind us of that [that it is God's kingdom, not ours], even though we find them [the parables] discomfoting. For in the end, it's not about whether we're wearing the right thing, it's whether we've changed; and in the end, it's not about whether we thought to be organised, it's whether we bring light where we are, and light the way of others; and in the end, it's not about our investment credentials, or stock portfolio, or whatever other measures of success others want to attribute, it's whether we gave it a go, tried our best... and in the end, it's not about what we did or didn't do, or did or didn't see, but how we served others as we lived our lives.³

The King in this week's gospel doesn't judge by words, but rather by the evidence of lives lived well. Of lives that show the difference that an encounter with the Divine has made. And whilst we might not think that we have done anything, much like those who ask "when did we" in the gospel, the King who knows our hearts, sees. And whether we realise it or not, we are forever changed, servants of the King.

¹ <https://www.thecultureconcept.com/the-crown-15-the-coronation-anointed-not-appointed>

² As Anglicans, we also don't like talking about money or politics, but that's a whole other reflection.

³ Missed it? Catch up here 😊 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oRC9FNxYIg>

Readings for next week – The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7, 7-19

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

Mark 13: 24-37



Prayers for use during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is
unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and
distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and
fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Dean Katherine or Reverend Angela if you have any concerns at this time and if you would like for us to visit you at home.

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