

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 22nd November 2020

Led by Simon McDowell

Welcome to our service of Morning Prayer on Christ the King Sunday (which means it's almost Advent!) Notices about the special season ahead can be found on your Friday Email, on our website, Facebook and Instagram. Thanks to Janet Cottrell for choosing our music today.

Please join in today's service using the words in **bold**.

Opening Hymn

"When Morning Guilds the Skies"

When morning gilds the skies,

My heart awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer

To Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Whene'er the sweet church bell

Peals over hill and dell,

May Jesus Christ be praised!

O hark to what it sings,

As joyously it rings,

May Jesus Christ be praised!

My tongue shall never tire
Of chanting with the choir,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
This song of sacred joy,
It never seems to cloy,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th' eternal song
Through all the ages long,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

"When Morning Gilds the Skies" is an 1854 translation by Eric Caswall of the 1822 German hymn "Beim frühen Morgenlicht". The tune is 'Laudes Domini' written by Joseph Barnby in 1868. It is performed here by the choir of St Paul's Cathedral

Prayer of Preparation

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

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand"
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners,
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.
Amen

Hymn

"Here I am Lord"
I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Performed by John Michael Talbot, from the album "The Troubadour Years", licensed to The Orchard Music

Psalm

Psalm 95 The Venite (BCP version)

¹ O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

² Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

³ For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.

⁵ The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.

⁶ O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

⁷ For he is the Lord our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

⁸ To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts: as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

⁹ When your fathers tempted me: proved me, and saw my works.

¹⁰ Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said: It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways;

¹¹ Unto whom I swear in my wrath: that they should not enter into my rest.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25.31-end read by Pam Blewett

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² 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. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ '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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

³⁷ 'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?"

⁴⁰ '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."

⁴¹ '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. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me."

⁴⁴ 'They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?"

⁴⁵ '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."

⁴⁶ 'Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn "When I needed a neighbour"

When I needed a neighbour,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,
Were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

I was cold, I was naked,
Were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

When I needed a shelter
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
I'll be there?

When I needed a healer,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
I'll be there.

Sermon Nigel is opening God's word for us today

The Creed

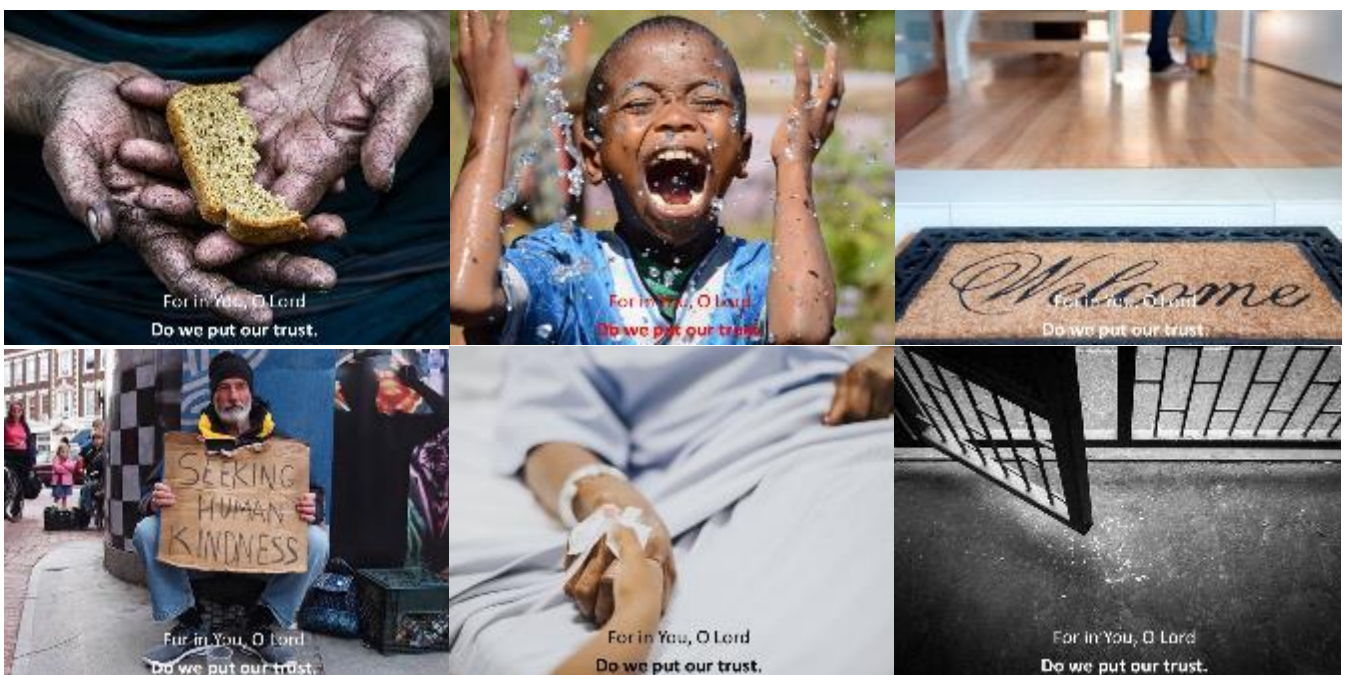
I believe in God, The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

Prepared and read for us by Deb Whittaker, including images for each section.
The response is: For in You O Lord ~ **Do we put our trust**



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sin,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.

The Collect

for the Christ the King Sunday

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Final Hymn

"Take my life and let it be"
Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose

Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne

Take my love, my Lord I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee

Performed by Saint Michael's Singers; from the album Sacred Head; Hymns of Remembrance - Lest We Forget. Licensed on behalf of Classic Fox; Integrity Music; Kingsway;

The Blessing

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Intro/outro music by www.purple-planet.com

Note

To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person without checking that someone will be there, as we are still working from home for part of the week.

Thank you for joining us today

Going Deeper

This week's reading: Matthew 25, 31.46

Bible Notes

Jesus tells a story of how the Son of Man will separate his people into two groups: one group is welcomed into his kingdom, the other turned away. And the deciding factor – what puts us in one group rather than the other – is how we treat other people. Those welcomed into the kingdom of heaven are those who cared for the hungry, the poor, the sick and the stranger. Those who didn't do these things are not welcomed in.

Jesus also makes it very clear that when you care for the 'least' – people who aren't seen as important – you are taking care of him. Interestingly, neither group of people realised at that time that they were taking care of Jesus (or not). This suggests that Jesus is less interested in people who are good at following rules but in those who instead naturally love people because they know they are loved by God.

For us today, these verses remind us that it is important we learn to see everyone as God sees them – as being valuable and worthy of care.

Questions for Reflection



- During the worst of this year's Covid-19 pandemic, who did you want to show appreciation to?
- When have you instinctively responded to a human need?
- How might you/your church/ our society become more compassionate?

Live your faith

Carry a piece of cotton wool with you as a reminder to be like the sheep in Jesus' story – a blessing to others through their attitudes and actions (and not like the goats, hard-hearted or dismissive of other people).

Give them strength

Within your family, household, or group of friends, begin a conversation about areas of your church or community life that are vulnerable – e.g. because they lack resources, financial or people. Think and pray together about ways in which you might strengthen that aspect of what you do or what you are. If you have time, try also to identify gaps in provision and how they might be addressed.

A personal prayer

Sometimes I am tired, or I'm preoccupied with other demands.
Help me take time, help me make time, for kindness,
so that rush can take its lower place, and kindness can rise up.
Because you had much to do – but made time anyway.
Amen.

Name

Matthew 25.31-46

Jesus tells a story about a shepherd sorting out sheep and goats to show how God separates the kind from the unkind.



Family time

Talk How does God want us to treat people?

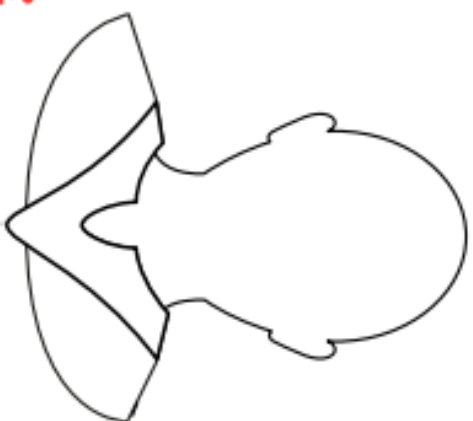
Do Practise being kind by writing a list of 10 kind things that you as a family can do this week to help each other and others.

Pray We pray for everyone who is hungry, thirsty, cold, sick or alone. Help us not to just think about ourselves but to see how we can help those around us. Amen.

Activity time



Draw the face of someone who was invited into the kingdom in the story. How would they have felt?



Find the 10 words below in the word search.

g	g	p	m	d	g	x	y	r	s
k	n	r	r	o	o	t	e	e	h
c	h	i	a	i	s	o	f	g	e
i	z	t	h	r	s	p	f	n	e
s	s	z	i	t	k	o	r	a	p
z	m	h	a	v	o	s	n	r	d
y	t	u	h	p	g	l	v	t	f
h	u	n	g	r	y	q	c	s	v
k	z	g	r	k	n	i	r	d	d
c	b	x	o	s	a	v	r	f	g

- sheep
- goats
- hungry
- food
- thirsty
- drink
- clothing
- sick
- prison
- stranger.

ROOTS children's sheet

22-28 November 2020



Imagine you are one of the people who did kind things. What might you be thinking when you discover you have been serving Jesus? What sort of things did you do? Did you realise when you did them that you were doing what Jesus would want? Write your thoughts in the bubble.

