

**We pray the Lord's Prayer:
Our Father...**

HYMN

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

The heav'ns 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 ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

Let all the world in ev'ry 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 ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine
upon you, scatter the darkness from
before your path, and make you ready
to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

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PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

22nd November 2020

Christ the King

Welcome! All Church of England buildings remain closed. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask our church office to send you a paper version. The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way. *Christoph Lindner*

Worship in the Waiting: Waiting for a King

The Feast of Christ the King is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Next Sunday is Advent, the beginning of the church year. In this feast we celebrate and reflect on this soon coming King, the most unusual king and his kingdom. Unusual kingdom where the greatest is the least, the weak conquer the strong. It is a Kingdom of peace, holiness and justice. The old ecclesiastical year ends with a proclamation of the kingship of Christ, who is enthroned in heavenly splendour. We are called to decide if our allegiance is in His kingship or that of this dark world.

He will come in His glory (as recorded in Matthew 25:31) to separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. There are distinctive features that differentiate a sheep from a goat. The same way, people who call themselves Christians must be different in a world that wants ALL to be the SAME. God will not lower His standards to suit us – when Adam tried to exercise absolute independence, he and Eve were banished from the kingdom.

But God sent His Son, Jesus Christ who became a crucified king to restore and usher in anew the Kingdom of God. A kingdom that is not of this world but begins in this world and finds its completion in the world to come, where He will reign forever. From his royal throne on the cross he extends his royal invitation to his subjects. As we enter the period of Advent, which is a time of preparation, prayer and waiting, the hymn "At the name of Jesus" (by Caroline Marie Noel) charges us to enthrone God in our hearts. When we do that, He will subdue in us all that is not holy, all that is not true and enfold us

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS : COMFORT AND JOY

ADVENT:

Starting today, our theme is "Worship in the Waiting" and we will lean into the original purpose of Advent as a time of waiting and preparation.

CHRISTMAS:

We have an exciting plan with varied events and services - in and around St Mary's, online and in the community. More next week!

GIVE AND SHARE:

Could you **make a hand-made gift** for a family, to be included in the Christmas boxes? We will need it by 5 December and can collect it from you!

SUNDAY WORSHIP: ON SITE, ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE

St Mary's Church:

During the renewed lockdown there will be no services at St Mary's Church.

Online: Sundays 10.30am

Stream any time afterwards:



tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

Church Coffee Online:

Sundays, 11.15 on our Youtube channel.

Telephone: Available any time for a week, Sun to Sat: **01895 714013**



ONLINE DONATIONS



If you wish to make a donation to Denham Parish Church, please scan this code with the camera or QR app on your smartphone and follow instructions.

Let's pray together ...

- pray with thanksgiving for the world God has entrusted to our care.
- For medical experts, politicians and public leaders – for wisdom, compassion and integrity.
- those who are sick and those suffering from bereavement, especially the family of Sylvia McBride and Robin Marshall.

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 93)

The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed in strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure; your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. The seas have lifted up, Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty. Your statues, Lord, stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days. **Amen.**

HYMN

(To the tune "God rest ye merry")

We wait with great expectancy to see your Kingdom come. We trust your word to be fulfilled and pray your will be done. So in our world of ache and loss we're calling out, as one:

*Come Lord Jesus,
we hunger and we yearn
for your return.
Come Lord Jesus,
oh we pray for your return.*

You came to us so long ago and you will come again. We long for heaven on the earth, an end to grief and pain. Lord, may our lives anticipate and usher in your reign.

*Come Lord Jesus,
we long to know you here,
come and draw near.
Come Lord Jesus,
oh we long to know you here.*

So lead us in your patience, Lord, and help us match your pace, to walk the straight and narrow road in rhythms of your grace, and may this Advent way of life all hurriedness replace.

*Come Lord Jesus,
and teach us how to wait,
you are not late.
Come Lord Jesus,
help us worship as we wait.*

CONFESSION

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

BIBLE READING: 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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION (or read page 1)

PRAYERS

Son of Man, come in glory!
Come King Jesus.

We bring the world we live in before your throne, King Jesus. Many nations suffer, their peoples hungry or thirsty, oppressed or forgotten. When they suffer, you suffer. We bring these places to you, and call out the names of countries especially on our hearts: Son of Man, come in glory!
Come King Jesus.

We bring our local area before your throne, King Jesus. Many people are hungry and thirsty, struggling with basic necessities like clothes or housing. Thank you for people and organisations who work for justice for these people. When the least are blessed, you are blessed. We bring these people and organisations to you, and call out their names before you: Son of Man, come in glory!
Come King Jesus.

We bring the people on our hearts before your throne, King Jesus. We pray for those in debt or in prison, those who are ill or who feel lonely and friendless. When we feed, clothe, visit and invite them in, we serve you. Speak to us about how we can make a difference, as we call out names of people in need. Son of Man, come in glory!
Come King Jesus.

We bring our church before your throne, King Jesus.

Help us serve you as we serve the least. May we see your face in the broken people of this world, and respond. Lead us into our Advent journey, to know your rule and reign in our lives. Son of Man, come in glory!

Come King Jesus. Amen.