

UNITED BENEFICE OF ST MICHAEL BETCHWORTH AND ST MARY BUCKLAND
SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT
CHRIST THE KING
SUNDAY 22nd November 2020



The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Collect

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;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever



Hymn: *Christ triumphant, ever reigning*

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:

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

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

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

Words: Michael Seward (1932-2015)

Music: John Barnard (b.1948)

1st Reading

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 God the shepherd will seek the lost, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak

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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: King of all ages throned on high - Paul Isom (b.1959)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNs6-lUtYXY>

(Performed by the Cathedral Singers in the Cathedral of St. Andrew and St. Michael, Bloemfontein)

*King of all ages, throned on high,
Yet saviour too of those with faith,
Death at your onslaught died in fear
And grace triumphant rules supreme.*

*Risen from death, the heav'nly Christ
Receives from God the Father's hand
Power over all created things:
A gift he could not know on earth.*

*Then at your coming on the clouds
With shining strength to be our judge,
Cancel the debt we owe you still,
Give back the glory we have lost.*

*Glory to you, O Christ our Lord,
Exalted far beyond our sight,
Reigning for evermore,
With Father and with Paraclete.*

Amen.

(Words: 10th century Latin Translation: Mount Saint Bernard Abbey)

Gospel Matthew 25.31-end - *The Judgement of the Nations*

‘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 Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Sermon : Revd. Neil Vigers



Prayers.

Loving God,
We ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit
to help us pray in this difficult times.

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the energy and vision of your Spirit
for those who are tiring in the battle against injustice and oppression:
for those exhausted by the struggle with poverty and hunger.
We pray for the Foodbanks, for the volunteers and those using the facility for the first time

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit
for those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain;
for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow or bereavement.
In the silence we lift before you those on our hearts at this time

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the love and courage of your Spirit
for those reaching out to comfort the distressed;
for those reaching out to others with the Good News of Christ through their words and actions which
emanate your love

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

Loving God,
We ask for the assurance of your Spirit
to know your presence with us in our daily lives:
in our relationships.
in our work and service.
in our worship.
in our times of joy and pain.

Merciful father accept these prayers through our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. Amen

Our worship has now ended, and our service now begins...

Go in the light and peace of Christ

Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary Crown Imperial - Sir William Walton (1902-1983)



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God Bless

