



Order of Worship : Sunday 20th November 2022 at 10:30am
Led by Rev'd Bekkie Wright, Minister in the Stamford Methodist Circuit

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/tPPVMdcus6E>

[When reading the order of worship on a computer, laptop or smart phone, click on the YouTube links to play the hymns. Remember to turn up the volume!]

Welcome

Welcome to our online worship for the Stamford Methodist Circuit for the 20th November 2022. My name is Bekkie Wright and I am a minister for the Methodist Church, and once again, it really is a pleasure to be worshipping with you.

Sitting between Remembrance Sunday and the first Sunday of Advent, today is the last Sunday in the Christian year and it sends out with a bang. It is a Sunday of celebration, known as the Feast of Christ the King. As we worship, looking back on the past year and what it has held for us, we celebrate today that throughout it all God has walked with us and that Jesus, whom we follow, is so much more than we could ever dream. Jesus is Christ our King.

This particular Sunday began as a theme in 1925, brought in for the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI, at a time in Europe, between the two world wars, when people were still reeling from the horrors of the first world war. In all of this, this Sunday was a time to really focus on Christ, holding high the image of Christ our King standing above the warring world.

In the words of Henri Nouwen in his *Sabbatical Journey*: "on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Christ is presented to us as the mocked King on the Cross as well of the King of the universe. The greatest humiliation and the greatest victory are both shown to us in today's liturgy. It is important to look at this humiliated and victorious Christ before we start the new liturgical year with the celebration of Advent. All through the year we have to stay close to the humiliation as well as to the victory of Christ, because we are called to live both in our own daily lives."

And so today we celebrate Christ our King who stands firmly beside us in both the pains and joys of life.

Call to Worship

We have come here with different joys, sorrows,
longings and needs.

But we come as one to worship.

Let us truly worship – and learn from –
the one who is our King and Lord of all.

Hymn 64 StF

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAaQ5EEXidc>

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
And in Your presence all our fears are
Washed away, washed away!

Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make all things new

When we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are
Washed away, washed away!

Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Prayers of Adoration and Praise

Lord, we come to worship you,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in you and for you,
all things in heaven and on earth were created.

You are the head of the Church.
May we give you first place in everything.
We worship you, our King and our Lord.
We worship you.

☐ Lord Jesus, King of kings,
yet nailed to a cross;
Son of God,
yet with time for criminals;
we offer you our lives,
our successes and our failures,
our excuses and our honesty,
our desire to change and our reluctance.
Speak to us today and draw us closer to you,
that we may be transformed by your power and love –
so unexpected... so amazing... so humbling.

Amen.

☐

Lord God, you are
Compassionate and challenging,
Humble and holy,
Accepting and assuring,
Near and now,
Gracious and glorious,
Exceptional and eternal –
and we worship you today
with gratitude and hope,
in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Reading: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging. ^[c]
⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^[d] with fire.

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Song: El Shaddai

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldUEIpmwsQ>

El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai [*means "God Almighty, God Almighty"*]

El-Elyon na Adonai [*means "God in the highest, Oh, Lord"*]

Age to age, You're still the same

By the power of the name

El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai

Erkamka na Adonai [*means "We will love You, Oh, Lord"*]

We will praise and lift You high

El-Shaddai

Through Your love

And through the ram

You saved the son

Of Abraham

Through the power

Of Your hand

Turned the sea

Into dry land

To the outcast

On her knees

You were the God

Who really sees

And by Your might

You set Your children free

[*Chorus*]

Through the years

You made it clear

That the time of Christ

Was near

Though the people

Couldn't see

What Messiah ought to be

Though Your Word
Contained the plan
They just could not understand
Your most awesome work was done
Through the frailty of Your son

[Chorus]

Prayer of Confession

Lord, forgive us,
when we have neglected to acknowledge or profess
your importance in our lives.
Forgive us when we have prioritised the trivial,
when we have enthroned other things in our hearts.
Restore our focus on you; help us begin again.
Reclaim us and redeem us, God of everything,
embedding in us a longing for your kingdom
and a sense of your majesty.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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 forever and ever. Amen.

And so we turn to our second reading for today. It comes from the letter to the Colossians and is a wonderful statement of faith in who Jesus is. And there is something very special about this reading. It is a hymn, spoken or sung by the very first Christians. It dates to the very earliest days of the church, even before the Gospels were written, in the words we are about to hear, we hear the voices and the faith of the very first Christians spoken in their gatherings. As people worked through who Jesus was to them and came to terms with the understanding of a God, who died for us, yet lives and remains our King, these are the words which expressed the faith they held.

Reading: Colossians 1: 15-20

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the

supremacy.¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Sermon

I could sit here this morning and give you a myriad of words and stories surrounding our reading, but in reality I don't think I could say anything as meaningful or powerful as the words in our reading today. The hymn which Paul gives us goes right to the heart of faith, that's why Paul wrote it, the words that the church at Colossae would have been singing together, given to them in Paul's letter as a reminder of all that Christ is to them. So let us sit with those words ourselves.

Video with the words of the reading on display and background music playing

This is Christ our King.

Prayers of Intercession

O God,
where voices proclaim
other kings and other lords,
re-establish your reign;
where tyrants and dictators
oppress the poor and the hungry,
topple their thrones
and rescue the oppressed.

O God,
where so-called prophets and priests
abuse their influence,
expose their deeds of darkness
with your awesome light;
bring your justice to reign
and may a new integrity
be born in places of authority.

O God,
where your name has been forgotten,
where mere lip service remains,
where your people have neglected
or misunderstood their purpose,
make yourself known as king,
and with tender mercy,
restore those hanging on by a thread.

O God, in our lives here today,
reveal your heart to us,

remind us of your might and of your mercy,
you who shepherd us with love and grace.
Create in us a kingdom
that will change this world.
In the name of Christ the King,
Amen.

Hymn 186 Stf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz-FkqobgXY>

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high
Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

Blessing

Jesus, we go, knowing you are our true king,
our Lord and Saviour.
May we carry this knowledge with us,
equipped by your Spirit
to live lives full of praise and service to you.
Amen.