



Sunday Nov 21st, 2021 *The Fig Tree Worship Resource*

Gathering & Lighting the Candle

One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of the morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

(2 Samuel 23:3b-4)

Today is Christ the King Sunday,
As we light the candle, let us remember that we live in God's kingdom where Christ is the King.

Call to worship

Our King is a king like no other
He comes, not with a crown and sword
to conquer and rule
But with arms outstretched in love,
the servant king.

Acknowledging



*Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress*

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and these waters. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Singing - TiS 143

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, But ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains
high soaring above
Your clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

You give life to all, Lord,
to both great and small;
In all life now living,
the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish;
but ever unchanged you will be.

Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Your angels adore you,
all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces
this grace, Lord impart
take the veil from our faces,
the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render:
reveal to our sight
What hides you in only
the splendour of light;
and so let your glory,
Almighty, impart
through Christ in the story,
your Christ to the heart.

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Prayer

Jesus Christ, son of man
you came to be the servant of all,
especially the sick, the weak and sinners:

Lord Jesus, king of the creation,
your love is so great that you
laid down your life for us all.
You gave us an example to follow
You lived simply
You shared what you had
You accepted everyone
And called us to be with you in the kingdom.

Forgive us when we have not done
likewise

Bring us your healing forgiveness, Lord,
and let us share in your kingship
by helping us grow in your truth,
your love and your spirit of service.

Amen.

Residents of the kingdom, remember you are
loved, forgiven people. **Amen**

Listening

Read: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 & John 18:33-37

For these words of faith and for Jesus the
Word: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflecting -

“What have you done?”

I wonder how you read that question? The ambiguity in the four words demonstrates the nuance is completely contextual. Last week we read the wonderfully expressive response from Hannah as she gave praise to God for her pregnancy. This week David gives

a response for all his life had been. We know David did not have a perfect life, far from it, yet he was able to acknowledge all he had done and not done. David called on God to protect him and God answered. The psalmist wrote Zion would become the habitation for God, God's own resting place and which would provide shelter and food security and importantly would look after those who were in need. Hannah and David able to answer, “what have you done?” with positivity and blessing.

We celebrate Christ the King today, the life and reign of God through life and through time. At this time every year we look back to see where God is and where we as church are and reflect whether the church is a community which has normalised God's protective care to all. This then directs us to look ahead to the start of a new Christian liturgical year where once again we aim to mirror the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as communities of faith and the body of Christ.

Since 1991, the *16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence* has run from the ‘Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women,’ (25th November) until ‘Human Rights Day,’ (10th December). This year after 30 years of campaigning, fighting and advocating we are encouraged to ask what action as individuals and as communities and governments we have done. 30 years later and gender-based violence is as prevalent now as 30 years ago and is on the increase. There is a movement *Thursdays in Black* in which participants wear a badge and a black



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top to be visible and make a powerful global statement against gender-based violence.

The United Nations suggest one in three women experience violence and this increases tenfold if the woman is disabled. In almost all cases the violence is perpetrated by someone known to the woman. These figures have increased during Covid-19 and the United Nations has described this as a “shadow pandemic.” Survivors face enduring trauma. In the same way that Pilate asked Jesus “what have you done,” so too survivors can be faced with similar questions which assume there must be a reason to have been betrayed by someone close. This was what Jesus experienced in the betrayal by the disciples.

When David called upon the God who was worthy of praise, he encountered a God of justice and not of the injustice offered when the “cords of Sheol” or the “snares of death” were confronting him. Pilate made a choice to remain silent, to allow the social systems of retribution to remain unchallenged resulting in the brutal murder of Jesus, an innocent victim. We come to the end of this Christian liturgical year, so we can look forward to mirroring the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the new liturgical year. My hope is we look deep within our hearts, our communities and our faith for ways to be able to respond with positive and affirming actions to the question “what have you done?”

Responding:

Prayers for World & Community

Loving Lord

We come to you as the king of creation.

We pray for our world, we bring you our concerns for creatures and plants as we exploit the world for our own benefit. Help us to walk lightly.

We pray for all the people of the world, those with much and those with little, all are part of your kingdom. Help us to share.

We pray for governments and those in authority, help them to take responsibility and govern with justice and mercy, following your example.

We pray for our communities, may they demonstrate the way of the kingdom, serving those around them in love and grace.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



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Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Offering

God of love and grace, may these gifts we share in your name remind us that we offer the whole of who we are - mind, body, soul and strength to Christ who reigns in our hearts. Amen.

Notices

This week is the last of the Church's liturgical year which means that next week we begin the season of Advent, or preparation for Christmas.

Singing - TiS 547

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee,
Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
and I with Thee one.

Riches I need not,
nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance,
now and always:
Thou and Thou only,
first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven,
after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joy,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

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Blessing

Jesus answered: "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice".

So go and live as people who belong to the truth.

In the name of the One who is creator, redeemer and friend. Amen

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