

ST. JOHN BAPTIST, BROUGHTON

Jesus said, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."

John 15.16

We seek to make Jesus known in our community, through our joyful, loving service & worship

Service of the word - 21st November 2021 Next before Advent - Christ the King

Minister:

Welcome to everyone attending our service today.

We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

and also, with you,

Opening Responses

Christ the King,

You became poor that many might become rich;

You emptied yourself of all power That we might be empowered to choose.

You show us God's kingdom in our midst And invite us to kneel with you,

To humble ourselves, to serve those in need, To find you here with us now.

As we gather in your name, fill us with your Spirit;

Open our hearts to worship you,

Jesus the Servant King.

Amen.

Confession:

We recognise the many competing kings and kingdoms that claim our allegiance

We turn from them and turn to you.

When we follow the strongest and the fittest, forgetting your gift of co-operation and mutual flourishing:

Show us your grace and compassion

When we believe that the consumer is king, that we can have more and more for less and less, reducing wages, damaging the environment, polluting the earth. When we forget human worth and that we are stewards of creation:

Remind us that your mercy is over all of your creation

When we watch as the powerful dominate the vulnerable; When we forget that you knelt to wash your disciples' feet:

Remind us of our own power and give us the will to serve

Absolution:

May Christ the King, Jesus the Servant King, Who came to cast down the mighty from their thrones and to raise up the humble and poor. You love us with a perfect love. You invite us to turn and follow you. Give us grace to learn from those we have hurt; Give us time for the amendment of life; Give us the courage to change; As we choose you to be our King.

Amen.

1st Reading – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 ***Judgement before the Ancient One***

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Psalms 93 - The Majesty of God's Rule and

your response is **You, O Lord, shall be exalted for evermore.**

The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. **R**

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD! **R**

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, for evermore. **R**

2nd Reading– Revelation 1:4b-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.
'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'
Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'
Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'
Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.'

Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection:

Affirmation of faith:

Let us affirm our faith in our Servant King. Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name:

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, **and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession:

For the peace and the power of the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

Inspire and strengthen the Church to work for the coming of the Kingdom ... Keep her ministers faithful in teaching the word of their Master and King.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

Look with compassion on the world where people seek to resolve their differences by anger and aggression ... Guide the leaders of the nations to follow the way of peace.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

In our times of work and our times of rest, help us always to live as servants of Christ the King ...

May his loving power prevail in our families and among all who live in this community,

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

Have mercy on all who have been betrayed and abandoned by those they trusted ... Comfort and save those who are falsely accused and stand alone before the powerful who have no pity.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

We pray for the departed who are no longer subject to the kingdoms of this world ... Grant them light and peace in the Kingdom of Heaven where Christ reigns in eternal glory.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

We pray in the name of Christ, who was born to be our King.

Collect: Christ the King

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.

Let us now pray with confidence to the Father, in the words our Saviour has taught us:

**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
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for-ever.
Amen.**

A Prayer of Praise and thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

You have given us a share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

In the darkness of this age your saints proclaim the glory of your kingdom. Chosen as lights in the world, they surround our steps as we journey on towards that eternal city of light where they sing the triumphal song. Open our eyes to behold your glory and free our tongues to join their song:
**Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God almighty; just and true are your ways, King of the ages. To you be praise and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Destitute King, One with the hungry, the naked and the scorned: May our faith be proved not in dogma and piety but in serving you in the last and the least; Through Jesus Christ, the stranger's Lord.

Amen

Blessing & Dismissal:

May the God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle us in the faith and may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ.

Amen.

