



Connection

Sunday 22nd November 2020
Christ the King



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.

Reading: Ephesians 1: 15-end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 week, the Reflection has been provided by Philip Airdre and the Intercessions by Roger Spiller. We thank them for taking the time to do so.



Reflection by Philip Airdre

A few weeks ago, I spent a couple of days in and around the narrow lanes of Norfolk. While I was there, I made the discovery that most modern, large 4x4 vehicles do not appear to have a reverse gear. Whether this is some accidental or deliberate manufacturing oversight I cannot say, but, while sitting on a stone wall, I did watch two such vehicles each attempting to intimidate the other to find if their vehicle did possess a means of going backwards and whether the driver was able to use a mirror!

Mirrors. Some people love them and others hate them, and for so many different reasons. Can you remember your driving instructor covering your rear-view mirror and asking what was behind you? There are plane mirrors, magnifying mirrors, and distorting mirrors – to name but a few. They can be used to reflect an image or shine light into dark places. I held a mirror in my left hand for most of my working life doing just that!

Our reading from Matthew Chapter 25 is entitled 'Judging the nations' and gives a picture of a judgement day when the Son of Man comes in his glory and sits on his throne. In brief, he separates the righteous and the un-righteous, then by way of explanation rewards the righteous with the gift of eternal life. The differentiation of people in this passage is very much by commendable social action. The 'righteous', were prepared to give of their time and possessions to anyone and everyone without regard to their own health

or welfare. They expected nothing in return and gave everything with a generous heart. By contrast, it appears that the 'un-righteous' had been reserving these acts of kindness with selfish motives or deciding that some were more worthy of help and support than others. What is particularly sad and challenging is that when confronted by the judgement of the king, the 'un-righteous' were unable to see their own shortcomings and failure. They didn't recognise themselves in the 'verbal' mirror. Human nature hates criticism but is there also an unwillingness to really look at ourselves.

Mirrors enable us to truly see ourselves. Sometimes we don't like what we see, without even having to resort to magnifying mirrors. I think God must look at us and truly wince! But that describes to me an underlying hope for humanity of forgiveness and not outright condemnation. In Jesus we have our Saviour who has taken the punishment we deserve. In Lockdown, our opportunities to give support to others directly may be limited by government restrictions, but perhaps it gives us an encouragement to do what we can now, in a small way to build bridges, to what can be accomplished in the future.

Christ the King came to save all men and women regardless of colour or creed, rich or poor, as his brothers and sisters. His generosity in that act of sacrifice for us, must surely prompt us to be motivated to service for him. Let us pray that the Light of Christ might be reflected in and through us that we might shine in the world, not for any glory for ourselves, but to show our love for Christ and for *everyone* we meet.



Intercessions by Roger Spiller

Christ the King, before whom all the nations will be gathered, inspire those who wield political power to promote the flourishing of all their citizens.

Give wisdom to our government and parliament, now facing momentous decisions on the welfare and future prospects of our country. Give us all a yearning to restore integrity, transparency and truthfulness in our national life

Lord, in your mercy....

I was sick and you took care of me

Sustain all who work in the NHS and care homes; uphold them when they are weary and feeling overwhelmed; make us alert to the needs of those around us.

We give thanks for the development of vaccines to deliver us from the death-dealing effects of Covid. Give wisdom to those who must determine their safety and fair distribution.

Be present with young people and students and all struggling with acute loneliness and isolation. May colleges, universities and local communities mobilise to provide the care they need.

Lord, in your mercy....

When did we see you a stranger and welcomed you?

We implore you, Lord Christ, to stiffen the wills and deepen the wellsprings of compassion in all who have responsibility for refugees, asylum seekers and all who are fleeing from destitution or persecution. We remember before you the people caught up in the conflict in Tigray and Eritrea. Sustain those who run food banks, deliver meals, provide night shelters and support those whose families and businesses are struggling with debt and anxiety.

Lord, in your mercy.....

Come inherit the kingdom prepared for you

Jesus, King and victor over death, we give thanks for all whom we've known and loved, and whose memories we cherish. We name them before you now....

We rejoice in your promise that nothing can separate us from your love and that they, with all the saints, are alive in you.

Lord, in your mercy.....

Lord, you meet us always from the future and bid us forsake 'all that is past'. Equip us and all who lead in our churches and diocese, to discern a new future for our patterns of worship and witness and give us boldness to grasp the opportunities of this hour.

May we enthrone you as King. Rule in our hearts and empower us to live the revolutionary life as your disciples.

Merciful Father.....

Requests for Prayers

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com



Please continue to pray for the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. Please pray for the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:

Those who are sick: Roy and Margaret Putnam, Richard Clements, Christopher Frith, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Alison Edwards

We continue to pray for: Don Dufty, Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt, Mary Doney

Those in residential care: Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy

Those who have died and their families: Brian Druce, Charles Brazier, Nils Wilkes, Simon Flynn, Doreen Byrd, Geoff Relph

Anniversary of a death: Please pray for those who have lost loved ones

The first Sunday of Advent - Morning Prayers via Zoom on Sunday 29th November at 10.30am with lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reverend Allison will be leading Morning Prayer via Zoom at 10.30am. There will be a collective lighting of the Advent Wreath – please see details below. If you would like to join the service either by video or dialing in from your telephone; please contact Alison Khan at acbhteam@gmail.com or 07984 748059 who will send you the invite link.

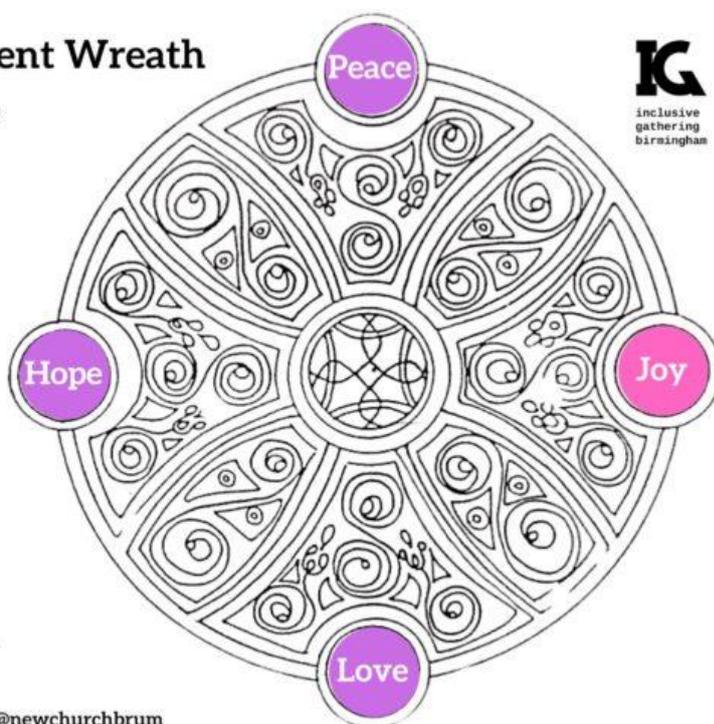


Thank you for this lovely idea sent in by Peter Hayes. We would love as many of you as possible to print out the template and colour it in – please send us a photo and we will include it in the Bulletin. Thank you to @newchurchbrum and www.inclusivegathering.org.uk. The link to the page can be found here www.inclusivegathering.org.uk/advent-candle-project-2020

Simple Celtic Advent Wreath

1. Print this sheet on a piece of A4 paper.
2. Fill in the design with any pen or crayon colours you choose.
3. Cut around the outside of the design.
4. Place the design on a plain-coloured dinner plate.
5. Place 5 tea lights on the circles (with a white one in the centre.)
6. Light the candles for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love on the 4 Sundays of Advent. Light the centre Christ candle on Christmas Eve or Day.

This printable wreath is intended for use with tea lights that will be lit briefly during an Advent service or personal reflection. If you plan to keep your candles lit, please use battery-operated tea lights instead for safety. Please don't leave candles burning unattended.



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Compassion UK

November 9 at 3:05 PM · 🌐



A classic carol service, in a new way!

TBN UK and Compassion UK are proud to present 'Carols with Compassion'.

Join us on Sunday 6th December at 8pm for a night full of Christmas cheer, including a blend of contemporary Christian music and traditional carols from Compassion ambassadors and close friends;

Philippa Hanna
Noel Robinson
Graham Kendrick
The London Community Gospel Choir
Hillsong London
Lurine Cato MBE
Martin Smith and
Elle Limebear.

Don't forget to join the Facebook event for more updates, behind the scenes exclusives and reminders of the broadcast nearer the time.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1792507960901066>



Christmas 2020

Persore Foodbank is collecting the following items for distribution before Christmas. We are organising a collection date in Eckington very soon, so watch this space.....

In the meantime, if you can add any of these items to your shopping list, local families will be very grateful:

- Christmas biscuits
- Christmas cakes
- Tinned Cold Meats e.g. ham and chicken
- Tinned salmon
- Christmas chocolate
- Festive sweets
- Custard
- Any other festive goodies

The Rota for December 2020

Date	Church	Time	Minister
6 th December	Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton	9.00am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Peter's, Little Comberton (Morning Prayer)	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St John the Baptist, Beckford	10.30am	Reverend Doug Chaplin
13 th December	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St James', Defford	10.30am	Bishop Michael Hooper
	St Giles', Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
20 th December	St Peter's Chapel, Besford	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	9.00am	Canon Roger Spiller
	St Margaret's, Alstone	10.30am	Archdeacon Robert Jones
24 th December	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.00pm	Reverend Doug Chaplin
	St James', Defford	10.00pm	Reverend Allison Davies
25 th December	St Giles' Bredon	10.00am	Bishop Martin Gorick
	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	10.00am	Canon Roger Spiller
	St Faith's, Overbury	10.30am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.45am	Reverend Allison Davies
27 th December	St Michael's, Great Comberton (Morning Prayer)	9.00am	Reverend Nancy Murray Peters
	John the Baptist, Beckford	10.30am	Archdeacon Robert Jones

Given the reduced capacity of churches resulting from social distancing rules being in place; if anyone would like to attend a service on either the 20th, 24th, 25th or 27th December can they please let Alison Khan know at acbhteam@gmail.com or by telephone on 07984 748059 so that a place can be reserved for you.

News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



The Prayer Diary is produced by the Communications Team as a monthly PDF and posted each day on the homepage and our social media channels. Download the Prayer Diary (PDF) - [November](#)

Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

