Into his Courts with Praise...

south calder mission community

A Service of the Word

Sunday 22 November 2026
Christ the King.

A Service of the Word for Sunday morning

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INTRODUCTION

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:9.



THE CONFESSION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God,
I confess that I have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed;
I have not loved you with all my heart;
I have not loved my neighbours as myself.
Have mercy upon me,
cleanse me from my sins,
and help me to overcome my faults,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Receive God's forgiveness

May the Father forgive us
By the death of His Son
And strengthen us
To live in the power of the Spirit
All our days. **Amen.**

PRAISE

O Lord, open my lips...
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Give me the joy of your saving help...
and sustain me with your life-giving Spirit.

THE COLLECT

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.

Suggested hymn to sing or read ***Through all the changing scenes of life.***

THE WORD OF GOD.

2 Samuel 23.1–7

Now these are the last words of David:
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.
Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?
But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Psalm 93

1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel; ♦
the Lord has put on his glory
and girded himself with strength.
2 He has made the whole world so sure ♦
that it cannot be moved.
3 Your throne has been established from of old; ♦
you are from everlasting.
4 The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice; ♦
the floods lift up their pounding waves.
5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, ♦
the Lord on high is mightier.
6 Your testimonies are very sure; ♦
holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

Revelation 5: 1-14

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?'

And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.

And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

‘You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,
and they will reign on earth.’

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing!’

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
for ever and ever!’

And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Suggested hymn to sing or read ***Colours of day.***

GOSPEL
Matthew 28.16–end

16 The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. 18And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

REFLECTION – What kind of King?

All the readings today are set on the theme of 'Christ the King,' the last Sunday of the Church's year. The reading from the second book of Samuel focusses on the end of King David's life, that great king of Israel.

He had humble beginnings, as the youngest son in a large family, yet God picked him out through Samuel. God sent Samuel to the family of Jesse at Bethlehem. Seven of Jesse's sons were paraded before Samuel. The first one he saw was Eliab – and Samuel thought:
'Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord.' *(1 Samuel 16:6)*
But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

These seven sons all passed before Samuel, but the Lord had not chosen any of them. Samuel asked Jesse if these were all the sons Jesse had, and Jesse said,
'There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.'

As we know, he was the one God chose. The youngest and humblest, an afterthought, out minding the sheep: David, who became king of Israel.

We look at the outward appearance, but **the Lord** looks at the **heart.** Have you noticed how God often uses people who surprise us? He uses the unimportant and weak people. When Jesus lived on earth, during the years of his ministry as recorded in the gospels, he called fishermen to be his disciples; a tax man too. He met and talked to a Samaritan woman at a well. That was very surprising: a good Jew wouldn't have wanted to speak to a non-Jew, a woman, especially one with a bad reputation. It would have made him 'unclean' and he would have had to go through a purification process before he could be admitted to the temple again.

Jesus came for **all** of us, and especially for the poor, the weak and the marginalised. He came for you; he came for me.

However you have come to know Jesus, by believing in him and trusting in him you have found in him the answer. That missing satisfaction and purpose in life; the treasure that never loses its value; the love which never fails; the one who will never abandon you.

I want others to know him and find what I have found. And so does Jesus. He sends us out to all nations, to the ends of the earth, to make disciples. But he doesn't send us out alone – he sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and prompt us. And just as well, because we can't do it by ourselves.
'I can't do it Lord – but send me and use me by the Holy Spirit.'
He lights the flame of his love in us by the Holy Spirit and sends us out.

Moving on to John's vision in Revelation, of heaven and earth at the end of the age, whenever or however that happens: we come to the throne of Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb, who died to save us. We worship Christ the King – the final gathering together.

But until then, before we are finally called home, we are called together as the Church today, to look to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to worship him, then to be sent out – and called together again: God's people, out and involved in the world, but called together to love and support one another and to focus once again on God and to worship him…….and to be sent out again, but not alone, for Jesus has promised that he will be with us always to the very end of the age.

Sheila Falkner

Suggested hymn to sing or read ***Come people of the risen King.***

THE CREED

All **I believe in God the Father,**
whose loving care is the pattern for family life.
I believe in Jesus, the Son of God,
who lives in my heart through faith,
and fills me with his love.
I believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens me with power from on high.
I believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



THE PRAYERS

A time of quiet prayer for

- *The universal Church - Bishops, synods and all leaders church*
- *The leaders of the nations*
- *The natural world and the resources of the earth*

Loving God I see the news and I am afraid. Violence is spiralling out of control. I don't know what to think or feel. The temptation to fall into hatred, or despair feels very close at hand.
Help me to remember that nothing in all creation can separate me from your love that I know in Jesus. May your perfect love for me cast out my fear and free me to discern what is mine to do amidst the chaos of this suffering world.
Amen.

The Methodist Church.

Finishing with the South Calder Mission Community prayer...

Heavenly Father we thank you for the life of your Church in this place, and in all the villages of the South Calder Mission Community;
for all who have served and worshipped you in years gone by,
for all who make up your family in our churches today,
for the faith we have in common, and for the people and traditions which make each church unique.
By your Spirit, guide and equip us,
that together we might find new ways
to reach out to our local community,
to show your love to our neighbours,
and to encourage them
to follow the Lord Jesus in their lives.
Father, we offer ourselves to your service,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
And in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

and the 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE CONCLUSION

Suggested hymn to sing or read ***The kingdom of God.***

The following prayer is said

Be with me, Lord, as I finish my prayer today.
May my lips always speak the truth;
may my eyes which have read your word
see only what is good;
and may my life as well as my worship
be always pleasing in your sight,
for the glory of your name. Amen.

And now may the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,
strengthen us for the Christian life.
May the Lord who provides for all our needs
sustain us day by day.
May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care,
send us out to live and work for others.
And the blessing of God Almighty.
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always.
Amen.

So now may I go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Links for the hymns

Through all the changing scenes.

https://youtu.be/yBkorDtz1nU

Colours of day.

https://youtu.be/O5j2J54PJcc

Come people of the risen King.

https://youtu.be/azEWoyjj4LI

The kingdom of God.

https://youtu.be/KXZsAM4T7iU