

Uffington Group of Churches

Joining in Prayer

week beginning

Sunday 22nd November 2020

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

(Sunday next before Advent)

If you are viewing this on a computer screen, you may wish to read the notes in the last two columns – which would form the front cover of a printed leaflet!

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom.

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (25:31-46)

Jesus told his disciples '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.'

The Prayers

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.

Give, we pray, to the world and all its peoples the peace that comes from above, so that through serving Christ they may find the way of freedom and life.

May your kingdom come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you for our Queen and her service and example, and we ask that you will bless and uphold her and the members of the Royal Family in bringing encouragement to our nation and the commonwealth.

Uphold at this time our government and all who bear responsibility for the welfare, health and wealth of our nation; and guide them as they seek to rebuild the life and livelihood of our country and its communities while combating the spread of Covid-19.

May your kingdom come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign, that it may extend your welcome to people of every race and background.

Bless Justin our Archbishop, David, Nicholas and Christopher our bishops and your ministers, that by faithful proclamation of your word, all people may be

drawn into your kingdom.

And uphold, we pray, Fr Aran and all the ministers in our group in your work in our parishes in the coming weeks and enable us to prepare to share anew with all parishioners the glorious message of Christmas.

May your kingdom come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have the courage to endure, and make known in their homelands your truth and justice.

May your kingdom come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community of faith, that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and in truth. Help us to make known to those around us your majesty, your holiness and your love. We rejoice with Alice and Michael over the safe arrival of Baby Lily Jane Todkill; and we pray for the pupils and staff of the schools in and around our parishes, especially those at Uffington Church of England Primary School.

May your kingdom come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

Protect, O Lord, those in our villages who remain particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 and other conditions and illnesses (especially the residents of Tallington Care Home and Braceborough Retirement Home and those with severe medical

conditions).
Touch and heal all those in need:
the sick and sorrowful; and
comfort with your presence those
associated with our communities
in any special need at this time
(particularly Sophie Baker).
May your kingdom come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you dear Lord for the
memory of those we have loved,
but see no more, we pray that you
will comfort those mourning the
passing of relatives or friends.
We pray especially at this time for
the repose of the souls of
Margaret Fuller, Alan Thompson
and Dick Wood, and asking that
you remember in your mercy,
O Lord, all those gone before us
who have been well-pleasing to
you from eternity; preserve in your
faith your servants on earth, guide
us to your kingdom and grant us
your peace at all times.
May your kingdom come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, you have taught us
that the power of the heart is
greater than the power of wealth
and might. Hear us as we pray
for the fulfilment of your reign.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our King; to him be glory and
power for ever.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

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. **Amen.**

(or)

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.

Conclusion

We pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:
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.**

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your
faithful people; that they,
plenteously bringing forth the fruit
of good works, may by you be
plenteously rewarded; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May Christ, who has opened the
kingdom of heaven, bring us to
reign with him in glory. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Although we may not be able to gather
freely together for worship and prayer,
we can continue to offer our prayers to
Almighty God. Without wishing to
constrain the manner in which anyone
prays, we hope that as many people as
possible use this very short order of
service on Sunday (in addition to any
participation in any other service or the
offering any other personal prayers on
that day and the remaining days of the
week), to help focus our thoughts in the
coming days as well as providing some
unity at this time in using material
knowing that others within our seven
villages are praying in a similar vein.*

*As previously suggested, if a
household is praying together, one
person may act as leader and the
others as the congregation and they
join in the sections in bold type.
If alone, you may like to read all the
words aloud.*

*You may want to light a candle before
you begin, and have a bible, cross or
crucifix.*

*The Rector of the Uffington Group,
Fr Aran Beesley, remains contactable
on 07590 055905 or email:
aran.beesley@gmail.com to stay in
touch and offer whatever help he and
the ministry team can do during these
challenging times – though please
observe Fridays as his usual days off.*

*Any comments on this prayer sheet,
and items for inclusion in next week's
update should be sent to Allan
Crowson allancrowson@hotmail.com
or Martin Brebner
(rev.martin.brebner@btinternet.com) by
5pm on Friday.*

The Uffington Group of Churches

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*week beginning
22nd November 2020*

***If you have picked up
this leaflet in Church,
please take it home
with you for your
further use and to
minimise the risk of
passing on any
viruses.***