

The Reign of Christ

Gathering

Create a space for worship - perhaps with a small table with a bible, cross and candle. This week, it would be appropriate to find a white cloth or scarf to decorate the table. Start by lighting the Christ candle. The candle helps to centre us. Take some deep breaths as you gather your thoughts towards God.

A video of the readings and reflection can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/482852866/1db5a1d38f>

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to this time of worship together. And thank you again for your patience with the ways we now have to operate - whether it is signing in, remembering not to mingle, and staying appropriately distanced from one another. It is all part of how we commit to God and to one another to keep each one of God's children safe.



Artwork from Ethiopia

Light a candle

And so we light a candle to remind us of God's presence with us always, and to draw us once more to the Christ, the Light of the World, whose light shines into even the darkest places of the world and cannot be overcome.

Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise the stewardship of the Wodi Wodi people of the Dharawal nation for the land on which we gather today. Our indigenous brothers and sisters have cared for this place since time immemorial and pay our respects to them and their elders, past, present and emerging. We commit ourselves to the continuing work of seeking justice and reconciliation in this land.

Call to Worship (based on Ephesians 1:20-22)

This week we celebrate the last week before Advent. This Sunday is often known as Christ the King Sunday (or the Reign of Christ). Prayers, music and readings speak about Jesus as the King of Kings.

You have heard what was written about Jesus in Scripture - how he would suffer and die and then rise from the dead on the third day; how the same power that raised Jesus from the dead raised Him to heaven and seated Him at the right hand of God,

where he know lives to intercede on our behalf.
So let us come before God with confidence,
through the loving intercession of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Listen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCqxW8BnK-8>

Prayer (Inspired by Matthew 25:31-46)

God of the people,
you have called us to walk humbly before you
and to share in the struggle with the least of these,
yet we have failed to live up to this call.
Today, we come before you asking your Spirit to empower us
to be agents of transformation for the world.
Make us a chalice from which all the oppressed
can find the living waters of God,
who calls us to live a life of service, of humility,
and of reconciliation with you, m with creation, and with the world. *(pause)*

Lord, hear us, as we pray for ourselves...

Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people;
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;
Touch y heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers;
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free.
In sharing our anxieties and our love,
our poverty and our prosperity,
we partake in your divine presences.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, king, brother and friend. Amen.

© 2009 Rick Lindholtz on his blog *on the tracks*

Listening for God's Voice

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46 - see video

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Reading: Jude 17-25 - see video

¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” ¹⁹ These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

²² Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear - hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Hear what God’s Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Faith: the God who reigns

I believe in God,
the God,
the only God,
who created everything
and reigns as King
over earth, sky, and water,
Sovereign and Holy,
and yet revealing Himself
in the intimacy of the name
“Father”.

*God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
(Psalm 47:8)*

And I believe in Jesus Christ,
the Son,
the only-begotten Son
whose reign began
in the weakness of a manger-bed,

conceived by the Spirit
and born of a virgin,
who reigned
even while nailed to a cross of wood;
who died and rose again, ascended and will come again.
*He will reign forever;
and his kingdom will never end.*
(Luke 1:33)

And I believe in the Spirit,
the Holy Spirit,
the Spirit of God
who as God's self
brings the presence of God
and extends the reign of God
in every believer and throughout the world,
who ever directs hearts
to our Lord and Saviour,
*so that grace might reign ...
to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
(Romans 5:21)

Reflection - [see video](#)

Listen: This I Believe (The Creed)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpuJFs0yGhg>

Responding

Prayer for others

*May your kingdom come soon.
May your will be done here on earth,
just as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10*

Lord God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
we your people acclaim you,
we praise you, we exalt you,
we bless your holy name.

It is your love that is revealed in the life and death of Jesus,
it is your power that is seen in his resurrection,
and it is your majesty that is made known by his ascension into heaven to be at your side.
Help us, O God, to always keep your power and your authority and your love and your
majesty in our minds
and to never neglect the doing of your will.
Help us to be obedient to the world you place in our hearts and minds.

Into places of conflict
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the terrorist

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the soldier
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the politician
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one bereaved by war
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the one made hungry
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one made homeless
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one who is in despair
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one who is ill
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one who has been abused
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one who is addicted
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one who is faced with unplayable debt
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the lonely
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the fearful
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the depressed
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one we wish to pray for...
may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of our world.
may Your Kingdom come.

Thank you, God our Holy, for hearing our prayers.
All these things we ask of you in the name of Christ Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, both now and forevermore. Amen.

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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.***

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

Offering

In responding to what we have read and how we have heard God speak to us, we commit ourselves to moving with God's Spirit, breathing life in the world around us. If you make a regular financial contribution to the Kiama-Jamberoo Congregation, consider putting that amount aside now and keeping it safe.

Let's pray...

Generous God, we bring ourselves, withholding nothing that you have given us. Use our gifts and skills, our time and our wealth, to change the world, beginning right where we are. Amen.

Sending out

Blessing

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.
As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.
As you have received - give.
As you have heard - proclaim.
And the blessing which you have received
from the Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be always with you. Amen.

Rev Daniel B Randall, United Church of Christ

Listen: Now Unto Him

Now unto him who is able to keep,
able to keep you from falling,
and present you faultless before the presence of his glory
with exceeding joy.
To the only wise God, our saviour,
be glory and majesty,
dominion and power
both now and forever, Amen.

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