



Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County

SUNDAY WORSHIP

from the Community
of Leicester Cathedral

Sunday 22 November 2020
Christ the King

The Revd Canon Alison Adams, Canon Pastor and Sub-Dean, leads the service.

David Cowen, Associate Organist, plays on the Organ

Plein Jeu from Suite du 3^e Ton

Jean-Adam Guilain (c.1680–c.1739)

Welcome and Greeting

We meet in the presence of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ.

Revelation 12.10

Canon Alison continues with words of welcome.

God gathers us across the distance.
Let us worship God together.

At this time of lockdown we are called as a nation to pray;
here is a prayer offered at the start of this new week:

Lord Jesus Christ,
in these dark and difficult days we turn our hearts to you.
In ages past you have delivered our nation from disaster.
Do it again we pray.

Give Wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders.
Give strength beyond human strength
to the NHS and all our frontline workers.
Give comfort beyond human comfort
to children and the elderly and all who grieve.

Lord, Jesus Christ,
in these dark and difficult days,
turn your face towards us,
have mercy upon us,
and heal our land we pray.
Amen.

Penitence Asking for God's forgiveness and healing

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Matthew 4.17

Silence is kept.

The kingdom is yours,
but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The power is yours,
but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

The glory is yours,
but we fall short of the glory of God:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution God's forgiveness for us

May God our Father forgive you your sins
and bring you to the eternal joy of his kingdom,
where dust and ashes have no dominion.
Amen.

Collect for the Feast of Christ the King

Let us pray.

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.

The First Reading

Ezekiel 34.11–16, 20–24

Read by Livvy Burgess

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Matthew 25.31–46

Read by Lucy Wiles

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

‘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.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Revd Canon Karen Rooms, Canon Missioner

David Cowen plays

Basse et Dessus de Trompette
from Suite du Premier Ton

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault (1676–1749)

Anne Rattigan leads

Prayers of Intercession

The following response is used

Lord we seek to do your will
Your kingdom come in us as it is in heaven.

and this response may be used at the end:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The prayers conclude with The Lord's Prayer

Let us 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.**

The Hymn

**Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou has died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

This is often known as 'stir up' Sunday after the words of the prayer usually used on this day at a Communion service. Even though we have not been able to share in the bread of the Eucharist today, let us nevertheless hear this prayer that we may be stirred to an active faith by God's presence in us:

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.

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Until we meet again,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

David Cowen plays

Voluntary in G major Op.6, No.7

John Stanley (1712–1786)

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