



Highcliffe and Bransgore **Methodist Churches**

Sunday 15th November 2020, 10:30am “Christ as King – Prophecy” Psalm 72

Prepared by Rev’d Phillip Dixon and prayers as indicated.

This written worship has been prepared and distributed to bless you, dear one in Christ. We gather, physically separate in our homes but fully united in love for our Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing that your brothers and sisters are sharing in this time of worship with you is both a blessing and an encouragement and will bring us all closer together as a church, the family of faith in Jesus. This Sunday is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church and we will pray for those for who separation and isolation is an everyday part of their Christian experience.



Good morning church!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. *King James Version.*

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we come into Your glorious presence this morning, joined to others in the family of faith by our devotion, love

and trust in You. May we be faithful, quiet and obedient, our minds and hearts being still, trusting, resting and abiding with You.

We are here to worship You Lord, our King of Kings, to proclaim the great things You have done and continue to do in our lives and those who have gone before us. Your Spirit holds us together in love, let no foolishness, quibble or grumble come between us but let us drink deeply together from the living water that You offer us. Bless us this morning we pray as we raise our voices heavenward in praise of our Heavenly King.

May we be a people of restoration and reconciliation; strengthening and encouraging each other and sharing burdens. Help us to know with absolute certainty that, bound together, we are the church, Your people, a family fulfilling Your perfect will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song: Praise my soul the King of Heaven

StF 83 Sing/read/pray/proclaim.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-n_BPn5BxH4&ab_channel=HymnChannel

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!
(the video misses this verse)

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace! Henry Francis
Lyte (1793-1847)

Prayer of confession:

*But because of his great love for us, God,
who is rich in mercy, made us alive with
Christ even when we were dead in
transgressions – it is by grace you have
been saved. And God raised us up with
Christ and seated us with him in the
heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order
that in the coming ages he might show the
incomparable riches of his grace,
expressed in his kindness to us in Christ*

*Jesus. For it is by grace you have been
saved, through faith – and this is not from
yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by
works, so that no one can boast. For we
are God's handiwork, created in Christ
Jesus to do good works, which God
prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:4-10 NIVUK*

Let us pray: God our Father, we come to
You in sorrow and repentance for our sins.
For the times of not fully trusting, abiding
and relying on You as we should. For
turning away from you, and ignoring Your
will for our lives; Father, forgive us, **save
us and help us.**

For times when we have behaved with
selfishness, just as we wish, looking out
for ourselves and those we love without
thinking of You or our brothers and sisters
in Christ; Father, forgive us, **save us and
help us.**

For failing You by the wrong we do and
think and say, forgive our foolish ways and
our quickness to judge others based on
our opinions. Father, forgive us, **save us
and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from
You by the temptations of the world
about us; forgive us for the times when
we have allowed half-truths and anything
less than complete honesty to fall from
our mouths. Father, forgive us, **save us
and help us.**

For not living our lives in step with Your
Holy Spirit, for times when we have
compartmentalised our faith in You as
being only for a special day or time.
Father, forgive us, **save us and help us.**

*A time to bring your personal prayers of
confession and to hear what God may be
saying to us:*

Loving and forgiving God. Your Grace is an unmerited gift to me each and every day. You are rich in mercy and as I resolve to live a life closer to You I give thanks for Your forgiveness for my weaknesses and errors and pray that Your Holy Spirit will strengthen and guide me in the days ahead. Fill me afresh today Lord with Your power light, love and kindness so that my life may always reflect Your wondrous glory **Amen.** With excerpts from the Church of England Common Worship, Prayer for the Family.

Prayer: Lord God as we read Your Holy Word, and read the accompanying notes, we pray that our hearts and minds will be open to hear what You are saying to us today. **Amen**

Reading: Psalm 72: 1-19

- ¹ Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
- ² May he judge your people in
righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
- ³ May the mountains bring prosperity to
the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- ⁴ May he defend the afflicted among the
people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all
generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain falling on a mown
field,
like showers watering the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is
no more.
- ⁸ May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the
earth.

- ⁹ May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of distant
shores
bring tribute to him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.
- ¹² For he will deliver the needy who cry
out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
- ¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the
needy
and save the needy from death.
- ¹⁴ He will rescue them from oppression
and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.
- ¹⁵ Long may he live!
May gold from Sheba be given him.
May people ever pray for him
and bless him all day long.
- ¹⁶ May grain abound throughout the land;
on the tops of the hills may it sway.
May the crops flourish like Lebanon
and thrive like the grass of the field.
- ¹⁷ May his name endure forever;
may it continue as long as the sun.
- Then all nations will be blessed through
him,
and they will call him blessed.
- ¹⁸ Praise be to the Lord God, the God of
Israel,
who alone does marvellous deeds.
- ¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his
glory.

Amen and Amen. New International Version

**A time to pause, read again, pray, and
reflect.**

Preaching notes:

Christ the King Sunday is observed the Sunday prior to Advent for good reason. This year, in recognition of the fundamental importance at this time of knowing Jesus as King, we have extended the special occasion over two Sundays as we consider “Christ as King” in prophesy and “Christ as King” in fulfilment. Advent is our joining with the people of long-ago Israel in the waiting, longing and expectation of the birth of Messiah whilst at the same time looking forward to the time that Jesus will come again (the prophesied second coming). “Christ as King” recognises that in the foretelling (prophesy) of his coming and at his birth in Bethlehem, he is born King. Psalm 72 is our entry point to this truth of Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, the King.

As with all prophesy of the Bible it is God speaking through people. In the case of Psalm 72 it is believed that it is Solomon (son of David) who is writing. Is he writing as a prayer, asking God to bestow on himself the justice to judge his people or foretelling that one coming (Messiah) will judge with righteousness? My answer and that of most good Bible commentators is “yes and yes”, yet as we progress through the Psalm it becomes an ever greater “yes” for the Messiah and less of a “yes” for himself. As we reach verse 11 “may all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him” we recognise that this is no longer Solomon being spoken of but Messiah.

There are strong “good kingly” themes that emerge from this Psalm. The themes that we would hope and pray that our leaders (kings or prime ministers or presidents) would embody. Justice (verses

1,2), Compassion (verse 13), Prosperity (verse 16), Salvation (verse 12) and Redemption (verse 14). These are the answers to the worldwide human conditions of guilt, loneliness, fear, dissatisfaction and emptiness.

To fully appreciate the all-encompassing nature of prophesy in regard to the birth of Jesus consider the words of the kings (or wise men) travelling from Babylon to Bethlehem: “we have observed his star at its rising” (Matthew 2:2). Why do they say, “his star” and what do they mean by “its rising”? It’s a very long and arduous journey to undertake without a sure outcome in mind (4 or 5 months).

Numbers 24: verses 15 onwards may hold the answer: “the oracle of Balaam...one who hears the words of God...I see him, but not now, I behold him, but not near, a star shall come out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel”.

Where do you “enter into” the story? Is it at the physical birth of Jesus in Bethlehem -at the beginning of the New Testament- or is it at the real beginning. In our Creation Time series, in talking of Jesus: “He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation” (Col:1:15). Who starts a story halfway through? To fully understand and appreciate the full story and the intent of the author you surely need to start from the beginning. **Amen.**

Song: Arise shine (darkness like a shroud)

StF 170 Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQLu2pWnEHU&ab_channel=OArquivista

Darkness like a shroud covers the earth;
Evil like a cloud covers the people.

But the Lord will rise upon you,
And His glory will appear on you-
Nations will come to your light.

*Arise, shine, your light has come,
The glory of the Lord has risen on you!
Arise, shine, your light has come,
Jesus the Light of the world has come.*

Children of the light, be clean and pure.
Rise, you sleepers, Christ will shine on
you.

Take the Spirit's flashing two-edged sword
And with faith declare God's mighty word;
Stand up and in His strength be strong.

Chorus

Here among us now, Christ the light
Kindles brighter flames in our trembling
hearts.

Living Word, our lamp, come guide our
feet

As we walk as one in light and peace,
Till justice and truth shine like the sun.

Chorus

Like a city bright so let us blaze;
Lights in every street turning night to day.
And the darkness shall not overcome
Till the fulness of Christ's kingdom comes,
Dawning to God's eternal day.

*Arise, shine, your light has come,
The glory of the Lord has risen on you!
Arise, shine, your light has come,
Jesus the Light of the world has come.*

Graham Kendrick (b1950)

Current prayer points for the Persecuted

Church: On Bangka Island, in northern Indonesia, protesters stopped the construction of a church building that had been approved five months earlier. Pray that building work can resume.

Pray for members of the Pillar Asih Protestant Church in Bekasi City, Indonesia who had been using an empty building for worship until Muslim

neighbours persuaded police to stop the meetings.

Pray for the protection of Pakistani Christians and ask God to give them the grace, wisdom and favour to be able to live peaceably with their neighbours.

Pray for Asif in Pakistan who lost his job as a popular supervisor at a garment factory for refusing to convert to Islam and is currently in hiding after receiving death threats. From <https://releaseinternational.org/pray/>

Prayers of Intercession:

Holy God, we come before you to bring our prayers for your world and for ourselves. We bow before your throne of grace to acknowledge you as a righteous judge of all your people, a defender of the poor, a deliverer to the needy and a power to overcome all opposition.

We praise you that the scientists have found a vaccine which is 90% sure of ridding the world of Covid-19. We pray that eventually everyone will be vaccinated. May the scientists continue to develop more vaccines which can be used successfully.

We pray for families who have suffered from the Coronavirus and are now slowly recovering. We pray for your love and support to surround all who are grieving as a result of the death of a loved one.

We continue to pray for all who are elderly and vulnerable during this lockdown, unable to go out because of their underlying health problems. We thank you for all who support and care for them in any way and all who keep contact with all lonely people.

Thank you, Lord, for food banks which have been overwhelmed by the need of

families for food, everyone who has been made redundant or who are suffering from any illness. We praise you, Lord, for the generosity of people who donate to food banks. Protect all children, we pray, so that they do not go hungry especially during school holidays.

We pray that you will keep all teachers and tutors, and all students, safe. We know that the virus has spread amongst young people. Please help them to see that they need to abide by rules, in order to stop the spread of the virus.

We pray for the people of America, following the presidential election. May Joe Biden rule with authority and be upheld by his Christian principles. We pray for all the people who will support him in his government.

We thank you for the Christian lives of Betty Tyler and of Bob Wolton. We pray for their families and for friends who knew them. We pray for all those we know who are recovering from or are waiting for operations. We pray particularly for Vic Barrell of Bransgore.

We pray for the Methodist churches in Highcliffe and in Bransgore, that through the Worship at Home sheets we will continue to uphold one another spiritually; and we pray that after the current lockdown ends we will be able to worship together in our church buildings. We pray for one another and our own families; and in a time of silence we remember those who need our prayers.

Blessed be the Lord who alone does wondrous things. Blessed by his glorious name for ever. May his glory fill the whole earth. **Amen.** Pam Sturtridge Bransgore WL

Song: Jesus shall reign StF 328 Sing/read or proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE4DDB5whyk&ab_channel=KeithandKristynGetty

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Blessing: Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

Amen.

Phillip Dixon, November 2020. YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182