



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Christ the King 26th November 2023

Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church and we are a very diverse group of people. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask. We will be happy to help.

Our worship style is quite formal, but we hope relaxed—as we come to worship God in our midst.

All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.



The Feast of Christ the King marks the last Sunday of the Church year! It is the last Sunday before Advent, and brings to end the liturgical Kingdom season when we envision what God's Kingdom is. It celebrates the all-embracing authority of Christ as King and Lord of the cosmos.

Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening Hymn 33 – Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The President will introduce the service

The Priest will introduce the confession.

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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

We sing together.

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

We are reminded of God's forgiveness.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, (+) pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We sing our praise in the words of the Gloria

**Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship You we give You thanks,
we praise You for your glory. Refrain:**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. Refrain:**

**For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Refrain.**

The Collect

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer and then says:

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.**

Liturgy of the Word (please sit as the young people leave us for their lessons. We hear a reading from the Old Testament.

The Revised Common Lectionary has selected two handfuls of verses from Ezekiel 34, but the whole chapter is helpful context. Ezekiel 34 is concerned with the issue of leadership and uses the imagery of shepherds and sheep to talk about leaders and the people. One of the rebuked leaders in view here is undoubtedly Israel's king, so the connection of this prophetic passage to Christ the King Sunday appears obvious.

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel
(Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24)

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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

Ephesians proclaims the exalted position of the resurrected Jesus as evidence of God's power, the same power that is at work in the church. Like Ephesians 1:3-14, verses 15-23 are one long sentence in Greek. The subject of the sentence shifts seamlessly from thanksgiving for the faith of the Ephesian church to a prayer for their continued enlightenment (verse 16) to a confession of the authority and power God has given to Christ (verses 19-23).

The recipient church's reputation for faith (verse 15) does not stop the author from petitioning God that they might increase in knowledge. He prays that God may grant them "a spirit of wisdom and revelation" (verse 17, NRSV). This prayer does not negate the faith the community already has, but reflects a tension that runs throughout the letter, in which the church occupies an exalted state as the body of Christ even as it remains in need of instruction and growth.

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians
(Ephesians 1:15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*We sing our **Gradual Hymn 91 – Brother sister let me serve you** during which the Gospel is processed – please stand.*

The teaching on the final judgment challenges every disciple of Jesus. The teaching opens with apocalyptic images that convey Christ's kingship. The image of the Son of Man coming in glory reflects imagery from Daniel 7:13-14 and recalls other places in

Matthew's Gospel where Jesus foretells the coming judgment (24:30-31; 26:64).

In chapter 24, after Jesus privately warns his disciples of dark days ahead when false prophets will arise and many will lose faith, Jesus tells his followers that the suffering will be interrupted by "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (24:30). He will send out his angels to gather all the elect (24:31). In the passage under study, which marks the end of Jesus' eschatological discourse (24:1-25:46), the Son of Man has arrived with his angels and is now seated on the throne, where he is called the king (25:34).

The portrait of Christ as King is a fearsome one in this text. All the nations of the world have gathered before him and behold his majesty.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ

(Matthew 25:31-46)

"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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.

We stand to affirm our faith in the words of the creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community.
A member of the congregation will lead these*

After the biddings we pray

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them
May they rest in peace
And rise in glory

At the conclusion of the prayers

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

Liturgy of the Sacrament (please stand)

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.
Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*We share the peace with those around us in a way we are
comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced.*

*We sing Hymn 453 – Lord enthroned in heavenly
splendour omit verse 4 during which a collection is taken.*

Blessed be God,
who enthrones us with Christ in the heavenly realms.
May we feed upon the bread of God
and drink the royal wine of heaven.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

After the Consecration :

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again**

*At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.***

We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in our preferred version and language.

**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 president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Elevation

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord (+) I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

*We receive communion, during which we listen to David play. All who would normally receive are welcome to, and you may choose if you are ready to receive the chalice. We receive God's grace in one kind or two. **(Please do not intinct (dip)).** You may also like to come forward for a blessing; and you may wish to light a candle. At the end of communion the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short prayer:*

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

Notices

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Christ our exalted King pour upon you his abundant gifts
and bring you to 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

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

*We join in our **final hymn 150** Crown Him with many crowns
(omitting verse 2 and 3) during which the clergy depart.*

You are invited to join us for refreshments downstairs.

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

Laurence's Larder

You can leave your donations, tinned fish or any non-perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at www.laurenceslarder.org.uk

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In October we raised £1866. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

GARAGE SALE – Sunday 3rd December from 11am – 2pm. We will be trying to get rid of items from Queens Park Day, and clear this for Christmas. Volunteers needed. Also invite people to come and buy!

Advent Procession at St Paul's

Our annual pilgrimage to St Paul's for the Advent Carol Service will be on **Saturday 2nd December at 5.30pm**. Collect your tickets from Mo C today!



Advent, like Lent, is a time for personal and corporate reflection on how we live our faith. In the case of Advent we are in a season of waiting. Advent waiting is not however simply about the birth of Jesus. Our Advent season waiting is also thinking ahead to Christ's future coming.

So the season is sombre, in purple and with fasting and repentance—a reminder that as Jesus came to us once, so just as surely will come again. Advent begins this year on **Sunday 3rd November**. Please see the resources to support our devotion at the back of church today!

Opportunities During Advent 2023

Monday Lunchtimes during Advent

On Monday 4th, 11th and 18th December at 12noon we will be offering an Advent reflection with Mass in the Church. There will be a weekly theme using music, images and silence.

Carols by Candlelight

with Queen's Park Singers—Sunday 17th December at 4pm
followed by mulled wine and mince pies!

Wreath Making

This annual creative workshop will take place on **Saturday 9th December -10am until 1pm**. Come at 10am to make your own Christmas wreath or table centre piece. All materials will be provided but participants will be asked to buy their wreath.

Vicar's Christmas Party

6pm –9pm in the Rotunda on **Friday 15th December**. You are welcome to pop in for a drink or stay for the whole time. Come as you are able. A £5 donation towards cost of drinks would be welcome.



For our prayers— Irene, Patsy, Janet, Jean, Joyce, Guy and Renate, AnneMarie and Marion, Emma, Peter and Rhona, Florret, John and Josephine, Harriet, May, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Jean, Pearl, Peter, Ruth, John and Cecilia. We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Lois Romain, Grace Burrell and Hubert Smith.

Services during the week 26th November 2023

Tuesday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom
Thursday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel
Friday 1st	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel 9.30am My Move play group 2pm Tea and Chat
Saturday 2nd	5.30pm Advent Procession St Pauls
Sunday 3rd <i>Advent 1</i>	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom 9.30am Sung Mass with Sunday School 5pm Zoom Service of the day

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