



# Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 22 November*

*Christ the King*

*The Sunday Next Before Advent*

**DURHAM  
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

*During this time of great anxiety and uncertainty, we want to stay in touch with our regular worshippers and indeed with everyone who is associated with the Cathedral family.*

*We very much regret that we have once again had to suspend congregational worship here at the Cathedral but our Sunday and daily services will continue to be live-streamed via the Cathedral's Facebook page.*

*However, Durham Cathedral is open for private prayer and quiet reflection between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on weekdays and between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on Sundays.*

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 25. 31-end**

Jesus said, '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.’

## Thought for the Day

by the Reverend Canon Charlie Allen

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King – a Feast that has an affectionate nickname: ‘stir up Sunday’!

It may be the day on which you traditionally make and ‘stir up’ your Christmas pudding or Christmas cake, but the invitation to ‘stir up’ comes from somewhere else – the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer. We’ll use it as our post-communion prayer in this service and it goes like this:

*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.*

As we stand on the threshold of Advent, the church has always understood this last Sunday in the Church year to be an occasion in which to be stirred up.

You may feel that the events of the past year have stirred us up plenty already, and that would be quite understandable! This pandemic has caused us to reflect on our priorities, to rediscover what is important and what is not.

And today’s Gospel reading speaks into that theme with great poignancy.

In his parable, Jesus asks his hearers to contemplate what sort of kingdom he comes as a sign of. It is not a kingdom in which power is valued, but in which service is embraced; it is not a kingdom in which status is celebrated, but in which the lowly are lifted up; it is not a kingdom of strength, but one in which the lost and vulnerable are nurtured and welcomed with open arms.

It is a kingdom we are called to live as closely as we can here on earth. We pray this each day in the Lord's prayer: *"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"*.

This kingdom is radical in its reflection of the love and hope of God, because to love our king, is to love what he has made - children, men, women, the broken, the joyful, the hopeful, the despairing. It is to love the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner... because this is the kingdom of the one who identifies himself so completely with "the least of these" that when we look at them, we know we are seeing him too.

St Paul knew all about this, and he spoke of it in our first reading in which he encourages the Ephesians in his letter to them, saying "I have heard of your faith and love".

St Paul spoke of a love and faith that made the Ephesians stand out as different in the world – a sign of the kingdom we glimpse in part, and which is to come in its fullness.

So it was with the Ephesians, so it was with those first disciples – and so may it be with us.

By God's grace, as we look to the season of Advent, may we allow God to stir up within us our calling to live as signs and glimpses of his kingdom. Amen.

# A Form of Intercession for Christ the King

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.

May your reign 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.

May your kingdom come;

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians of every denomination,  
that together we may come to understand  
the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your dominion 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.

May your rule 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.

May your reign 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.**

## Calendar of Holy Days

Monday 23 November

Clement, bishop, martyr, c 100

Wednesday 25 November

Catherine, martyr, 4th century

Isaac Watts, hymn writer, 1748

**This year's Advent Procession with Carols has been pre-recorded and will be available as an online act of worship which will be broadcast on the Cathedral's Facebook page and YouTube channel from 6.00 p.m. on Saturday 28 November. We hope that you will engage with us in this great and moving act of worship to mark the beginning of the season of Advent.**

## Hymn

Christ is the King, O friends rejoice!

Brothers and sisters, with one voice

Let the world know he is your choice:

*Alleluia.*

The first Apostles round them drew

Thousands of faithful servants true,

Sharing a faith for ever new:

*Alleluia.*

Then magnify the Lord and raise

Anthems of joy and holy praise  
For Christ's brave saints of ancient days:

*Alleluia.*

O Christian women, Christian men,  
All the world over, seek again  
The Way disciples followed then:

*Alleluia.*

Christ through all ages is the same;  
Place the same hope in his great name,  
With the same faith his word proclaim:

*Alleluia.*

Let Love's unconquerable might  
God's people everywhere unite  
In service to the Lord of light:

*Alleluia.*

So shall God's will on earth be done,  
New lamps be lit, new tasks begun,  
And the whole church at last be one.

*Alleluia.*

*George Bell (adapted)*

## Founders and Benefactors

On Sunday 22 November, we commemorate the Founders and Benefactors of Cathedral, City and University and reflect on our place at the heart of the North East. This service gives us an opportunity to celebrate those whose generosity in the past has enriched the lives of Durham's great institutions today and to look forward to a future that is full of opportunity. On 27 January 1914, the then Dean, Herbert Hensley Henson, revived the Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors. It had been written into the Cathedral Statutes of 1554 but for whatever reason had not been observed for centuries.

When informing the Chapter of his decision to reinstate the Commemoration, Dean Henson wrote:

“In this solemn Thanksgiving for the many Blessings, which have been poured out on the nation in this part of England through the piety, munificence, and labours of Christian men and women during nearly thirteen centuries, from the days of S. Cuthbert to our own time, I desire earnestly that not only shall all the members of the Cathedral Foundation take their part, as indeed they are surely bound to do, but that the clergy and citizens should unite with them, publicly acknowledging their own indebtedness to the former mercies of God, of which the great Cathedral is the enduring Witness in their midst.”

Let everything that has breath,  
praise the Lord and give him glory.

**Most glorious Lord of life, we acclaim you!**

Most glorious Lord of life, we acclaim you!  
This ancient cathedral praises you.  
This city and county praise you.  
The people of this land of the North-East praise you.

**Most glorious Lord of life, we acclaim you!**

The darkness and daylight praise you.  
The seven days and stars praise you.  
The puffins and the seals;  
the cuddly ducks and dolphins praise you.  
The lapping waves and the roaring seas praise you.

**Most glorious Lord of life, we acclaim you!**

The holy Gospels and Celtic legends praise you.  
The visions of the young and the dreams of the old praise you.  
The workers of land and commerce praise you.  
The created order and all that is in it praise you.

**Most glorious Lord of life, we acclaim you!**

A Prayer for use during the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

A fifth century prayer from the Gelasian Sacramentary

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God,  
that the words which we have heard this day  
with our outward ears may,  
through thy grace,  
be so grafted inwardly in our hearts  
that they may bring forth in us  
the fruit of good living,  
to the honour and praise of thy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Contact details for The Reverend Canon Michael Everitt

Address: 15 The College, Durham, DH1 3EQ  
Email: [michael.everitt@durhamcathedral.co.uk](mailto:michael.everitt@durhamcathedral.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0191 384 0164

The next issue of *Praying Together*  
will be published on Monday 30 November