

CHRIST THE KING 2020
ALL SAINTS WITLEY: LITURGY OF THE WORD



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

COLLECT

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins.

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 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

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.**

READINGS

New Testament: Ephesians 1. 15 – 23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards 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.

Gospel: 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.'

SERMON

The Rev James McKeran

HYMN

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King.
The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly:
the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King.

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King.
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;
but above all the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King.

PRAYERS

For the spirit of love and service, let us pray to the Lord.

Grant to the Church light to know the will of God and grace to perform it. Make all Christian people true followers of Christ in their lives day by day.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Fill the world with the spirit of compassion, that the powerful may use their power to help the weak. Break through the barriers that divide people and nations, and draw all together for the common good.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Give us deeper compassion, open our eyes to see the presence of Christ in everyone. Grant us insight to know where we can give help with the needs of friends and neighbours and in all our community, and grace to offer it.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who suffer, for the poor and hungry, for the sick and the homeless, for prisoners and those who have no one to care for them. Bring them relief in their misery and strengthen all who as individuals or organisations work for relief.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Have mercy on those who have passed from this world and come to judgement. Pardon their failures and receive them in the compassion of Christ. Grant mercy to us all when we are called to account at the end of our lives.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

May our prayers be accepted in the name of Christ, our Judge and our Redeemer.

Amen.

THE PEACE

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.

HYMN

Rejoice! The Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!*

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

BLESSING

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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Piano Voluntary

