

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



A Service of the Word

Christ the King

22nd November 2020

Welcome and Gathering

Opening Prayer

We have been called into the pastures of God, where there is nurture, a place to rest, safety, and kindness among all.

Let us join together, in the goodness of God, to spend this time with each other, and to praise the shepherd who has gathered us here.

God, we have been a scattered people, roaming, looking for places to call home. You have sought us out, called us home, gathered us in and given us a land of belonging where all are welcome. We praise you for holding us safe in your great story. Amen.

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.

George Herbert

A Prayer for Forgiveness

We come to you,
people who are hungry,
people who are thirsty,
strangers, imprisoned, exposed,
knowing that you have come to us, too,
in these same guises.

In our brokenness, welcome us.

**And open up our defences as we come to
confess to you, O Lord of many guises.**

Truly, we say to you that we have seen
the broken and have not been moved to
compassion.

Silence

Truly, we say to you that we have heard
people mourning and have not given
them our time.

Silence

Truly, we say to you that we have
witnessed oppression and have not raised
our voices.

Silence

Truly, we say to you that we have seen the
stranger and not said a word.

Silence

**God, hiding in all strangers, all around us,
we are truly sorry for what we have
done, and what we have not done.**

We ask you to deepen your welcome in us, so that we might deepen your welcome around us. Amen.

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer of Praise

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95.1-7a

The 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Ephesians 1.15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about
your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love
for all God's people, I have not stopped

giving thanks for you, remembering you in
my prayers. I keep asking that the God of
our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,
may give you the Spirit of wisdom and
revelation, so that you may know him
better. I pray that the eyes of your heart
may be enlightened in order that you may
know the hope to which he has called
you, the riches of his glorious inheritance
in his holy people, and his incomparably
great power for us who believe.

That power is the same as the mighty
strength he exerted when he raised Christ
from the dead and seated him at his right
hand in the heavenly realms, far above all
rule and authority, power and dominion,
and every name that is invoked, not only
in the present age but also in the one to
come. And God placed all things under
his feet and appointed him to be head
over everything for the church, which
is his body, the fullness of him who fills
everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

King of kings, Majesty
God of Heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end
All within me falls at your throne

*Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before you now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your Majesty*

Earth and Heaven worship you
Love eternal, Faithful and True
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls
Brought this sinner near to your throne
All within me cries out in praise.

Your majesty, I can but bow ...

Jarrold Cooper

Reading

Matthew 25.31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger

or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Poem

King of kings
Lord of lords
Glory Hallelujah!

really?

are these word just
a neat, peppy praise song,
fun to sing
but empty of meaning?

no kings around here
that I know of,
but a lot of politicians
who act as if folks
are against them
if you are not with them;

no lords around here
except those who
think they can
lord it over everyone else,
but debt and worry and fear
control my life;

glory seems to be
in short supply these days,
and hallelujahs
don't seem to mean much
to most folks;

but you

you are a mystery solved
in the impossibilities
of life;

an enigma wrapped
in wonder;
a majesty born
in humility;
a life blossoming
out of death.

and you

you I could follow
forever.

Thom M. Shuman

Song

There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And you meet us in our mourning
With a love that cast out fear
You are working in our waiting
You're sanctifying us
When beyond our understanding
You're teaching us to trust

*Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us*

You are wisdom unimagined
Who could understand your ways
Reigning high above the heavens
Reaching down in endless grace
You're the lifter of the lowly
Compassionate and kind
You surround and you uphold me
And your promises are my delight

Your plans are still to prosper ...

Even what the enemy means for evil
You turn it for our good
You turn it for our good and for your glory
Even in the valley, you are faithful
You're working for our good
You're working for our good and for your
glory

Repeat

Your plans are still to prosper ...

*Jack Anthony Mooring, Aaron Keyes and
Bryan Edward Brown*

Prayers

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Ending with

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**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.**

Sending

News and Notices

Hymn

At the name of Jesus
ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him
King of glory now:
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who, from the beginning,
was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
all the hosts of light,

thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders,
in their great array.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures,
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory,
of that perfect rest.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with the Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel

Affirmation

You call us to service;
to be your eyes and ears,
hands and voice in this, your world.

To open our eyes not only to the beauty
and love which you create,
but the injustice, hate and suffering that
humankind generates.

To open our ears not only to the
chattering of this coming week, but the
searching, fears and questioning of all
whom we shall meet.

To open our hands not only to those
we choose to share our lives, but in
welcome, love and fellowship to all who
you draw near.

To open our mouths not only to speak
platitudes and simple words, but the
truths you lay upon our hearts.
Your Word for this, your world.

You call us to service, to be your eyes
and ears, hands and voice in this, your
world.

John Birch

Blessing

Compassionate King
send us out with more time for
interruptions, and more generosity for
kindness, so that we might see you in
everyone we meet and reveal you in
everything we do.

**Fill us with thirst for holy justice,
enlighten us with your overflowing
love, and reveal in us your saving work.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, and
with those you love and miss, this day
and always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

MOBILE PHONE GIVING

To give quickly and easily by mobile phone, scan the QR code below (using your camera app), tap on the link and choose an amount.



Thank you

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

Some material: © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020.

Poem: *Oxymoron*. Thom M. Shuman, copyright © 2013 Thom M. Shuman. Posted on Prayers 4 Today. <http://prayersfortoday.blogspot.ca>

Affirmation. John Birch. Posted on http://www.faithandworship.com/liturgy_Lent_3.htm#ixz-z1lkU9wBx2

CCLI 417757 and Streaming Licence 780413.