

## Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Week: 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Christ the King

**Old Testament:** Ezekiel 34: 11-16,20-24

**Psalm:** 95: 1-7a

**New Testament:** Ephesians 1: 15-23

**Gospel:** Matthew 25: 31-46

### Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Rev Jo Neary

Today sees the third of our sections of Matthew 25 thinking about the end times. The passage focuses on judgement when Jesus comes again. It describes the division of all nations into sheep and goats. And the reason for division? How we have treated the members of Jesus' family. (Mt 25:40) How we treat other people is of huge importance to Jesus. Treating each other with compassion is a matter of justice. Taking responsibility for welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and visiting the prisoner is our job as human beings. And when we do that, we do it to Jesus.

This passage throws up some interesting questions. In terms of justice and judgement are our actions more important than our words? Do we see acts of compassion as being an integral part of being a Christian, a "non-negotiable" if you like? And where does this leave faith? Action seems more important than faith in this context. How does this passage challenge you personally, what might God be requiring of you today?

### Collect for Christ the King

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.

### Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship,  
Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

**A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England.** This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

