

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: 28th November 2021, Christ the King

Old Testament: Daniel 7: 9-10,13,14

Psalm: Psalm 93

New Testament: Revelation 1: 4b-8

Gospel: John 18: 33-37

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. David Campbell

At the heart of the reading for today lies a double misunderstanding – bad news at the best of times, but at the worst of times absolutely catastrophic, and yet in the story we have of the so-called “trial” of Jesus of Nazareth, it is of course fatal. The Roman authorities in the shape of Pontius Pilate the Governor are concerned to keep the peace around the time of the greatest Jewish festival of them all – the Passover as celebrated in Jerusalem – and Pilate is trying to get to the bottom of the complaint of the “crowds” that Jesus has claimed some kind of kingship and with it some kind of kingly authority over the people. The double misunderstanding arises because Pilate, and those who would have had Jesus executed for treason, have fundamentally misunderstood not only the nature of the teaching and particularly miraculous actions of Jesus, but have also misunderstood the nature of the divine kingship Jesus seems to represent and in fact embody. That kingship, as it turns out, is not a territorial one, much less an ambitious aggrandising totalitarian one. It is in fact the model and example of what it means to live in the shadow of the principal values of truthfulness and love.

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.

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.



Worship to enjoy at home

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