



Westville Methodist Church

Sunday, 21 November 2021

Preparation for Worship

As you prepare to worship, let the following song help set the scene for you and draw you closer to God. [Majesty](#) (Click or tap the link to listen)

Opening Prayer

We worship this day, rejoicing, in the presence of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

At his birth the angels proclaimed his name to be Emmanuel, God with us.

Today wherever we find ourselves, in a time of worship, may we truly sense the power and presence of Jesus Christ.

May our hearts and spirits be warmed and challenged to proclaim with our lives, "Christ is Lord!"

Amen.

Song [All Hail King Jesus](#) (Click or tap the link to listen)

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

God almighty, ever present, ever loving,

We worship you, we adore you, we proclaim you our King!

However, we admit having trouble believing in a King in our lives.

In our existence we are unfamiliar with royalty, sovereigns and a monarchy. Yet, on this day we are invited to recognize Jesus Christ as the King of our lives, our sovereign ruler.

This kingdom is based on the laws of love; loving God as God has truly loved us and loving our neighbour as we ourselves want to be loved. Such love extends beyond the limits of our

lives, into a world in which there is fear and alienation, hunger and disease, hopelessness and darkness.

Jesus, our sovereign ruler, our friend, our Master and guide has called us to reach out to feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; visit the sick and those imprisoned; welcome the stranger.

These words are well known to us, yet somehow, too often, we have treated them as nice words but not an active part of our life of faith.

Forgive us, Lord, for the meagreness of our faith and the weakness of our witness.

Rule our lives again with your powerful love, that we might truly, as disciples, be worthy.

Help us to find the forgiveness which you have given to us and to do your will.

By the power of your Spirit at work in us, remake us in your image, strengthen us to be good examples of your compassion, and breathe into us your new life.

We ask this in the name of our Lord who taught us to pray together, saying:

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.

Amen.

Bible Reading [John 18:33 - 37](#) (Click/tap the link for the reading)

The meditation included below is from a lovely resource of daily prayers and devotion. It invites us into a time of quiet and reflection and is fully comprehensive. The approach is in the *Lectio Divina* style of reading scripture. Please take the time to share in it fully – it'll be only about 10 minutes long – and allow the music, quiet time, reading and reflection to touch your heart. Enjoy it!

Meditation [Christ The King](#) (Click/tap on the link to listen)

Song [O Praise The Name \(Anástasis\)](#) (Click/tap on title to go to song)

In services at the church we take up an offering. In this virtual setting you're invited to dedicate the offering you've made or perhaps would like to make. If you'd like to know more or contribute today please click, [Giving](#) or see details below. Thank you.

Prayer of Intercession

Almighty, ever-present God, since the beginning of Advent, a year ago, we have come full circle to the celebration today of the Reign of Christ as King.

We have recited the story and rejoiced in celebrating the wonderful birth of the Christ, remembered the great healing moments and the teachings that have sustained people throughout the centuries. We cried in sorrow at the Crucifixion and rejoiced with absolute joy on the sunrise of Easter when Jesus conquered our greatest fear, death.

We celebrated the great good news of the disciples as they risked everything to finally proclaim the good news to all people.

Now on this Sunday, we again invite Jesus to enter our hearts.
Sovereign Lord Jesus, come into our hearts today and take your reign.

Remind us that your kingdom is a kingdom of hope and light, in which there is no darkness, fear, or sadness. You have called us to be the Kingdom people, living our lives in the knowledge that peace, justice, and hope are not only possible, but can actually be the ruling factor of the world, and not only for those who follow you.

There are many who do not acknowledge your presence and your name, O Lord. But in your infinite love and mercy, you have acknowledged and claimed them.

Help us to be the kind of disciples that welcome everyone with the words of kindness, that offer acts of mercy and peace to all in need, to proclaim Christ risen and glorified.

And now we bring before you, O Lord, the names of people and situations needing your healing and comforting touch. May we also open our hearts for that same healing and comfort.

(Pause as you offer people and situations to God in prayer)

Remind us that we are never beyond your grace and mercy, Lord. We know that you will give us the strength and wisdom to be faithful disciples and we celebrate and honour you, now and forever.

Almighty God, we ask, hear our prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

You're welcome to offer additional, personal prayers at this time or to simply be still for a moment before concluding this worship time.

Song [How Great Thou Art](#)

(Click/tap on title to go to song)

Benediction

We now go in peace.

Help us bring the good news of God's eternal love,
the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to all we meet.

Let us go in peace!

Amen.

Take time to reflect and perhaps sit with your eyes closed as you think back on something in this service that resonated with you. You may like to conclude this time with the following song: [In Christ Alone](#)

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