



# St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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Sunday 21 November 2021  
Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent

*Third Sunday Service*

**A Christ-like Church  
for the sake of God's World**



**Being Compassionate**

## Notices

Welcome

*Please remain seated*

This is the day the Lord has made

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving

**And worship him with joyful song**

*Please stand to sing:*

**Love Divine  
CP 516**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

*Please sit or kneel for*

## **The Confession**

Let us call to mind and confess our sins:

Your righteousness, Lord, is like the strong mountains,  
and your judgements are like the great deep.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

With you is the well of life,  
and in your light shall we see light. Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Save us, Lord.

Continue your steadfast love to those who love you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Promise of Forgiveness**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by His Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our  
Lord.

**Amen.**

*We say together*

## **The Prayer for today**

**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 WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading:**

**Psalm 116: 1 - 7**

I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

‘O Lord, I pray, save my life!’

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;  
our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest,  
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For the gift of the word

**Thanks be to God**

**Second Reading:**

**Mark 6: 30 - 34**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

For the gift of the word

**Thanks be to God**

*We stand to sing:*

**Immortal love forever full**

**CP 475**

Immortal Love for ever full,  
for ever flowing free,  
for ever shared, for ever whole,  
a never-ebbing sea.

Our outward lips confess the name  
all other names above;  
love only knoweth whence it came  
and comprehendeth love.

We may not climb the heavenly steeps  
to bring the Lord Christ down;  
in vain we search the lowest deeps,  
for him no depths can drown:

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet  
a present help is he;  
and faith has still its Olivet,  
and love its Galilee.

The healing of his seamless dress  
is by our beds of pain;  
we touch him in life's throng and press,  
and we are whole again.

Through him the first fond prayers are said  
our lips of childhood frame;  
the last low whispers of our dead  
are burdened with his name.

Alone, O Love ineffable,  
thy saving name is given;  
to turn aside from thee is hell,  
to walk with thee is heaven.

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807 – 1892)*

**Third Reading:**

**Colossians 3: 12 - 14**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

For the gift of the word

**Thanks be to God**

**TALK / DISCUSSION**

## Beauty for brokenness

*We stand to sing:*

Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world  
this is our prayer.

Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset,  
your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for all people,  
trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary,  
freedoms to share.

Peace to the killing-fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned —  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.

*Refrain*

Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame  
until your justice burns  
brightly again;  
until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.

*Refrain*

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

*Please remain standing for*

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who sets us free to serve, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel for*

**The Prayers**

*We say together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples*

**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.**

Please stand to sing:

**The Servant King**

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled,  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King, he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

*Refrain*

Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

*Refrain*

So let us learn how to serve  
and in our lives enthrone him,  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

*Refrain*

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

*Remain standing for*

**The Blessing**

**The Dismissal**

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

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