

**Sunday 24th November 2019 Christ the King**  
**Jer. 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43**

Intro

Christ the King

24th Nov... end of the church year and next Sunday is start of Advent and the start of the new church year

Lots of different 'years'; Calendar year, financial year, school year....

Church year starts with Advent

So today is in effect the church's New Years Eve !!!

We celebrate Christ the King :-)

The whole church year has been leading up to this, maybe we don't do that too well!

OT & NT conclude in the fact that Jesus is Christ the King, that He is Sovereign over all

Reading from Colossians is a summary of this

Vs 13 He - Jesus - rescued us completely from the authority / tyrannical rule of darkness God enabled us to be transferred / moved / beamed us up Scotty ! into the Kingdom of His beloved Son because in Jesus we have redemption & forgiveness - all our sin us cancelled through His blood

Vs 16 In / by Jesus everything has been created

Vs 18 He is the head of the body / church

Vs 20 Through Jesus & Cross God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things... only way back to original creation

Jeremiah - writing to God's people 600 yrs BC

cf Ezekiel 34 - we find a very smilier passage here

Shepherds - the king and his subordinates way of doing things impacted the ordinary citizen, everyone's livelihood hung upon their honesty & diligence... or not!

The OT called the king & his subordinates shepherds

These shepherds failed their peoples - their actions meant that the nation of Judah was rapidly sliding into destruction and would soon to be conquered by the super power of the day - Babylon

In this time of huge political uncertainty, Jeremiah brings the word from God, promising that a righteous branch & shepherd would come - The Lord is their righteousness

Vs 5 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when i will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Jesus would become the ultimate Shepherd - Christ THE KING

Luke 23 - even after 3 years of ministry, as Jesus was crucified on the cross, people questioned / doubted / mocked Him as Messiah

The one criminal knew / understood / recognised Him

## End of church year

Next Sunday we start Advent / New church year in preparation for the greatest cosmic event  
But this week we finish the church year with the proclamation of the kingship of Christ, and a call upon all of us to decide where our allegiances in this world lie.

I was reading this week that the feast of Christ the King dates back less than 100 years - relatively recently in church history!!!

It was only in 1925 that Pope Pius XI declared this feast day.

1925 was a dark time for our world. It was not long after the end of the 'war to end all wars' where 1000's of soldiers had died. The 'end of all wars' and yet there were plenty of signs that we were hurtling towards another, which in fact we did a few years later in 1939

There was a worldwide economic depression and people were looking for answers.

And as often happens in such times, there were people offering 'answers' - Mussolini & Hitler to mention just 2.

It was in this context that the Pope felt it was time to call on Christian people everywhere to declare their allegiance to the rule of Christ.

I find it interesting that not having heard or read about this before last week, +Olivia also talked about this in her sermon in Reading Minster yesterday afternoon.

As our world faces such huge challenges, and as a country we find ourselves in the midst of a turbulent election, we celebrate today the Feast of Christ the King.

Is Christ our King??

Do we place our allegiance first and foremost with Him?

Whatever our political persuasion, do we, as Christians primarily look to Jesus for our life manifesto?

Do we seek to obey His way of living as our priority?

Have we surrendered our lives to Him as our sovereign Lord and King before all else?

Bishop Olivia, in her sermon yesterday, urged us to compare the promises and declarations of each of our political parties, with the priorities of Jesus... As we consider who we will vote for on Dec 12th

Do we each proclaim Christ as our King. ....