

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 21 November 2021
Reign of Christ Sunday**

'A Peculiar Reign'



Gathering Music

Hubert Parry, Tranquilly
Edward Elgar (arr. A. Grant), Elegy

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn The King of Love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never ;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed ;
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me ;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight ;
thy unction grace bestoweth ;
and oh, what wonder and delight
from thy pure chalice floweth !

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never ;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever !

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God of all,
you who reign
in heaven and on earth,
we come to worship
bringing all that we are.
You reign in our hearts,
sovereign in our lives,
leading us to discover
your kingdom promises.

God of love and compassion,
when we fill our lives
with things that feed our greed,
forgive us;
when we offer worship
to earthly things,
forgive us;
when we put you high
on a pedestal beyond our reach,
forgive us;
when we take your kingdom
and turn it into something unlovely,
forgive us.

When we let material things
reign supreme,
forgive us and make us new;
remind us again
and again

that your kingdom
is not of our imagining;
remind us again
and again
that it is through Jesus
that we know God;
and through Jesus
we are made new:
forgiven, restored and free.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Philippians 2: 1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn Heaven shall not wait
for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend :
Jesus is Lord ;
he has championed the unwanted ;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait
for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the élite to tend the least :
Jesus is Lord ;
he has shown the master's privilege —
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait
for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain :
Jesus is Lord ;
he has married word and action ;
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait
for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore :
Jesus is Lord
in our present imperfection ;
his power and love are for now ; and then for evermore.

Reflection 'A Peculiar Reign'

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

Prayers of the People

Hymn We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth ;
the gospel of a Saviour's name :
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the cross ;
for all he loved his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn —
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King :
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim :
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Blessing and Sending

May we live dangerously
and turn our words of faith into acts of trust.

May we lift the torn robe and wrap the poor in it.
May we take the crown of thorns and stand with the suffering.
May we break the bread and feed the hungry of the world.
May we hold the cross and know what must be given up.

May we be part of Christ's peculiar kingdom.

Sending Music

Herbert Howells, Psalm Prelude Set 1 No. 1 (Ps. 34, 6)

Worship Leaders: Rev. Rosie Magee, Dorothy Tarrant

Scripture Reading: Charles Bergius

Organist and pianist: Alistair Grant

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Amy Marcham, Philippa Burgess, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

Image: Christ Before Pilate by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929). Lviv Art Gallery, Ukraine
Call to Worship and Sending adapted from 'Christ Reigns' by Roddy Hamilton, in 'Winter'
Wild Goose Publications, 2016, p66/67

Opening Prayer: Spill the Beans, Issue 40 © 2021 Spill the Beans Resource Team

Scripture readings: New Revised Standard Version

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