



Sunday Worship Service

21 November 2021 (Reign of Christ)

When it comes to celebrate this Sunday called ‘Reign of Christ’ or ‘Christ the King’, we are now coming to the end of this year’s Christian calendar. And also coming near to begin a new season by Advent and Christmas. We are now in the intersection where we may worship Christ Jesus who not only reigns our lives but also brings life to us as Christ child. And in your using of own words, what would you call Christ Jesus by his title? It challenges but is worth to think about it. This may prepare him room in your daily life where your happiness and burdens sit together.

This liturgy of the service is prepared by Jenny Keast (Bible Reading), Rosemary Brook (Kids Talk), Joshua Yeon (Prayers of the People), and the music team. We thank them for their works for the commitment to all God’s works that may bring life to us all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR THE FIRST PEOPLES

We acknowledge the Wallumettagal people of the Eora Nation, and their elders past, present and emerging, on which we celebrate Jesus Christ our Lord. We recognize their special custodianship and relationship with the land and all creation. And thank them.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

[Ephesians 2:8-10](#)

We are here because of our gracious and compassionate God. As we gather and give all our praises to God, let us continue to seek to find what God has planned for us.

In this time of worship, we are reminded that all this is embodied in his son Jesus, his life, his death and his resurrection. So come bring your whole being and worship. Let us worship God together.

HYMN: CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS (TIS 228)

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon the throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for *us*,
and hail him as *our* chosen king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God
before the worlds began:
and we who tread where he has trod
crown him the Son of Man,
who every grief has known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel there on high
can fully bear that sight,
but downwards bends a burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Sovereign of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
majestic and sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for you have died for *us*;
our praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Prayer of Affirmation

This world would deny you, Lord,
and rely on human wisdom
in their search for answers
to questions they have yet to ask,
but we will praise you,
and exalt your name,
for we know that you are Alpha,
the beginning of all things,
and Omega,
the end,
and all that is between.

We have known your healing.
We have known your provision.
We have known your victory.

Our sorrow has turned into dancing
and our tears to songs of joy.

We shall praise you ever more. Amen.

Attributed to John Birch

BIBLE READING JENNY KEAST

Old Testament Reading: **2 Samuel 23:1-7**

David's Last Words

23 These are the last words of David:

“David, the son of Jesse, speaks—

David, the man who was raised up so high,
David, the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
David, the sweet psalmist of Israel.

² “The Spirit of the Lord speaks through me;
his words are upon my tongue.
³ The God of Israel spoke.
The Rock of Israel said to me:
‘The one who rules righteously,
who rules in the fear of God,
⁴ is like the light of morning at sunrise,
like a morning without clouds,
like the gleaming of the sun
on new grass after rain.’
⁵ “Is it not my family God has chosen?
Yes, he has made an everlasting covenant with me.
His agreement is arranged and guaranteed in every detail.
He will ensure my safety and success.
⁶ But the godless are like thorns to be thrown away,
for they tear the hand that touches them.
⁷ One must use iron tools to chop them down;
they will be totally consumed by fire.”

Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: **John 18:28-38**

Jesus’ Trial before Pilate

²⁸ Jesus’ trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn’t go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn’t be allowed to celebrate the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, “What is your charge against this man?”

³⁰ “We wouldn’t have handed him over to you if he weren’t a criminal!” they retorted.

³¹ “Then take him away and judge him by your own law,” Pilate told them.

“Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone,” the Jewish leaders replied. ³² (This fulfilled Jesus’ prediction about the way he would die.)

³³ Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. “Are you the king of the Jews?” he asked him.

³⁴ Jesus replied, “Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?”

³⁶ Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”

³⁷ Pilate said, “So you are a king?”

Jesus responded, “You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, “He is not guilty of any crime.

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS (TIS 390)

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
he is the king of creation.
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord ...

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord ...

We have been crucified with Christ;
now we shall live for ever.
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord ...

God has proclaimed his gracious gift:
new life for all! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord ...

Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord ...

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SERMON

Let us pray:

In Christ alone I place my trust
And find my glory in the power of the cross
In every victory let it be said of me
My source of strength, my source of hope
is Christ alone.

In Christ Alone by Don Kock and Shawn Craig

Christian faith teaches us about a fresh start. It is free and possible absolutely for anybody to start to follow Jesus and to have a relationship with him. Whatever we have done in our life, in the Christian faith, we start something new and meaningful in Christ. Being a Christian is not about going to church, living a good life or living in a Christian country. It is not also about believing in God. It is about being a follower of Jesus Christ and having a relationship with him. At first sight, this might seem impossible. So, we are called to gather together every week to celebrate who Jesus Christ is, getting puzzles of Jesus Christ in order to take a clear picture of the kingdom of God. What kind of puzzles do you look for today? And how is your learning and getting to know of Jesus Christ going today?

But at the heart of the Christian faith, there is the belief that Jesus was, and is, God in human form. And he lived, died and came back from the dead after three days. Then he returned to the heaven above. His life, death and resurrection enable humanity to have a relationship with God. All of Jesus stories and God's plan are written in the Bible and still reveals who Jesus Christ is to those who read it and study about it. The Bible book of the gospel John records what Jesus said about becoming a Christian: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Many know this passage and, with its message, hold faith tight in Jesus Christ. Me, too. John 3:16 was and is now one of passages from the Bible that I recite and meditate when I pray. Sometimes I feel amazed by what the word speaks, and what its meaning brings to me. There is God who loved me so much before I knew him and even, I was born, and gave me his one and only Son Jesus Christ. And even he added eternal life unto me. What am I? And how much I owe him in this life?

I can recall the Saturday night that was the night before Sunday I decided to go to a worship service with my sister. I was given a copy of the Bible and hymnal book. My sister, Seung Eun taught me what to do during the worship service, recommending me to memories the Apostles Creed. Until

midnight, I spent time to memories the Creed. I could not understand what I said, and all new terms and concepts of God, for instance, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And the name called Pontius Pilate was very strange. The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting were sounding like saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.” At that time, memorising the Apostles Creed was for me a religious quotation ready for the first worship service I would join. Next day, I went join a local church congregation with my sister and I observed what she did and proudly recited the Creed that I mastered with other worshippers.

Later, I learned that the Apostles Creed is the symbol of faith that contains precisely important component of who God is, and, in human form, Jesus Christ selected and canonised by the early church’s councils. And with my criticism, the way of describing who Jesus is seems way theological and all about Jesus is christological elements. Every single word in the Creed looks fixed ones and there is no space for us, like followers, believers, seekers or doubters of Jesus Christ, to add up our own way of giving titles to him. Unconsciously we might have copied other people like clergies or authorised documents to say who Jesus Christ is for us, instead of using our own words to name him. This might have led us to create a hierarchy in governance and leadership of church, give absolute power to high profile leaders, and believe that charismatic leaders would make the church strong. Worst, those who have power and authority might be able to objectify themselves as a divine one or an agent of Christ Jesus. We know this is heresy in Christianity. So, we need to think about seriously how we can give Jesus a title that is not from somebody’s christological achievement but from our own theological discernment. No matter what it looks like, we should have a fresh start to say who Jesus Christ is for us. I may challenge all of you to collect your fonder memories of Jesus Christ, his love and grace, and anyone who has influenced you about becoming in faith.

In the court of Pontius Pilate, Roman procurator of Judea, Jesus asked back to him, saying, “Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?”

Because Pilate asked this question: “Are you the king of the Jews?” As a governor, he could not have used Roman imperial titles like a king, a lord, a saviour of the world, a son of God, though there was not any political purpose or its interpretation. Jesus gently explained to Pilate about what his kingdom looks like (v 36). “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.” He drew the line between Pilate’s Roman Empire and the kingdom of God where he belonged. In the kingdom of God, the blind man worships Jesus as the Son of Man, confessing him “Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world.” (11:27) And the doubter Thomas, one of twelve disciples, confesses and believes Jesus as “My Lord and My God” after touching his side and the wounds (20:28-29). Jesus encouraged his friends and followers to use their own language and knowledge as they tried to call their master. Unfortunately, Pilate could not unfold his own Latin philosophy and Roman dictionary to describe who Jesus Christ is for him. He was with the Truth in his court. But he complained (38). “What is truth?” He had a great chance to have a fresh start in Jesus and his kingdom. But he was blind so that he missed it. In the church history, how we remember his name is that in the Apostles Creed, it says, Jesus was “suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.” If Jesus Christ were with you, how would you call him or give him a unique title that you honour him?

Sehyun Kim, professor at Sydney College of Divinity, argues that the author, “John presents all aspects of the identity of Jesus using various titles without negating any one of them. The author also uses diverse Christological titles, weaving them together to express an overall view of the identity of [the Johannine] Jesus.” And “the author carefully put [all the titles in the gospel of John] them together in order that the readers could come to know his identity without any misunderstanding caused by their different ethnic, cultural, or religious backgrounds.” (*The kingship of Jesus in the gospel of John*, p. 128) His argument and its idea of freedom to honour Jesus by giving a title

is so encouraging, allowing us to consider and reconsider any title of Jesus anew in the context we live today. By Kim's argument, I had thought about a new title that I may give to Jesus. What if I am given a chance to name Jesus Christ, which is not fixed by authority, taught by other institutions, or canonised by authorised denominations? And most of all, the title would sound like what everyday language speaks and down-to-earth words read. This was the homework I had been wrestling with during the past week.

A few weeks ago, it was the week where Halloween Day, All Saints Day and All Soul's Day were observed, and I was holding a moment to commemorate those beloved ones who are now in the heaven with God. I included my grandmother, Grace's grandmothers, and many who were members of this congregation when they were alive – Cliff Watson, Joyce Napper, Marion Anderson, Winifred Hill, Iris Ayerton, Thelma Butler, Owen Summers, Valerie Cooper, Margaret Cameron who is Jenny Keast's mother, Dulcie Smith, Heather McDowell, and Peter Scutts. I gave thanks to God for who they were and the lessons and love that I received while I was with them. I still remember each person's character, personality, and Christian conviction. All was unique and so special to me. Recently my backyard began a season of colours blooming hydrangea flowers. And some flowers are producing white ones which reminded me Heather McDowell who promised me to give me her white hydrangea flowers before she passed. I was believing that Heather incarnated as the white hydrangea flowers when I saw them. All of them were good friends of mine. All of you are good friend of mine too. You have taught me who Jesus Christ is as Friend who is important in someone's life and nothing can change its value and meaning in this world. So I can honour Jesus Christ with you by giving him this title – Friend of friends. How is it? I like it. Just love this title to my Lord Jesus Christ. It has an open-end and is unlimited to expand its meaning. For this title, Friend of friends, made by my discernment and formation of Christian faith where I seek to find the truth, verse 37 would be Jesus' response. "I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."

Last Thursday night, Joshua got home so late. He looked tired and hungry. So, I cooked tea and joined him while he was eating. We talked about our current life stories, such as, his work at his uncle's warehouse and a new position at a retail shop at Macquarie Shopping Centre. I shared good news in ministry and my daily life. It was such a blessing because I was able to have a long and good conversation with the almost-grown-up-child. Then the topic moved to a relationship with God. "I need a catch-up with God", said Joshua. My translation was this: "Dad, I need God and his control now." Spot on. I used to encourage him to use his own words to say who God is and how he works within him. Catch-up with God would be the best phrase that an 18-year-old boy can express how much he needs God's reign in his life. I may need a catch-up with Jesus today. You may need it too. Maybe we, Christians need to catch-up with God all the time. In the same way, when we talk to God, I believe that it becomes a prayer. When we meet with each other to celebrate Jesus Christ, it becomes a worship service. When we commit to offer our hands to those in need, it becomes God's mission that is unpacked in our daily life. As Kim argues, all of us and our neighbour would know who Jesus Christ is, no matter who they are and where they came from. Jesus Christ is himself common good for all.

From next Sunday we will begin the observation of Advent season that is four weeks journey toward Christmas. This season will be very festive and a good time where we can wait for the Lord who comes to the world in human form to give all humanity hope, joy, peace, and love. This season, I hope that each and every one will honour Jesus Christ by giving his one and only title you can make. And let us catch up with God and have a fresh start again. By this, I truly believe that the kingdom of God is becoming among those believers, followers, seekers and even doubters. And Friend of friends is there for us always.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE JOSHUA YEON

Creator God,
breath and source of life,
in love you called the world into being
and in grace you made us and call us your children.
We stand in awe of the wonder of your creation:
its beauty and wildness;
complexity and power;
resilience and fragility.

God of life,
you call us to be participants in the web and wellspring of life:
to be nurtured by the planet;
to be nurturing of the planet;
to cherish the world and all that lives.
But we have failed and creation groans under our weight.

God of grace,
forgive us in our brokenness:
when we have taken too much from the earth;
when we have not spoken out against greed and destruction;
when we have allowed our most vulnerable neighbours to be harmed.
We seek courage and forgiveness to be made whole.

God of love,
we pray for those people, communities and nations already suffering the
devastating effects of climate change; and we pray for the diversity of life on
earth, so much of it already threatened by our actions.

God of hope,
we pray for the members of parliament who receive our petition. Bless them
with wisdom and creativity, and a shared vision of hope for all creation.

May they find the determination to take strong action to halt the destructive effects of climate change, and the political will to act together for the common good.

Creator God,
we pray for us all,
that we might restore our relationships with each other and work together to heal the earth.
Renew us in your grace.

Lord,
we pray for world peace. the many arguments and misunderstandings lead to wars, which then leads to innocent lives being taken away for the negative political relationships between countries. We pray for the tensions between Taiwan and China. As they continue to fight, the situation is getting worse. We pray that you bring peace to the two countries and ease the tensions that are rising every day.

God,
we thank you that the pandemic is getting better in Sydney. The vaccination rate is getting higher and we are feeling a little more back-to-normal and we thank you for keeping us safe.
We pray for the cities and countries that are still facing the COVID-19 related problems and pray for their safety.
Lord, pour your blessings upon those working in the medical facilities that work everyday to keep us healthy. They sacrifice their own time to keep us safe.

As we speak, there are hundreds of year 12 students studying and preparing for their next exam. Place a sense of peace and comfort in their hearts and allow them to study and sit their exams to the best of their abilities. These students are the driving force of the future so please help them to become the person to picture them to be. we pray for Bella, her physical and mental

health, and her family. We pray that she is at a good mental state and she comes back to you for help.

For the world cycle of prayer, we pray for East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines. We pray for their safety during the pandemic and natural disasters. For the work efficiency of their governments to reduce corruption and for the wellbeing of the people. We pray for the victims and their families that go through torture, drug abuse, human trafficking, and human right violations.

We pray for the upcoming confirmation candidates for 2022. We pray for the candidates and their mentors that they can work together and learn together to draw closer to you and become your devoted follower. Lord, this is not an easy decision, it takes time and dedication to accept the obstacles that are shown through their journey to you. Pour your blessings upon them as they go through their own journey and lead them and guide them through the right paths to you.

We pray for the churches around us and their ministry, for our church and its ministry, the people in our church and their safety, our elders and church leaders, and the safety of each family.

In your name.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

我們在天上的父，

願人都尊祢的名為聖，

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지,

아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며,

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

願祢的國降臨，
願祢的旨意行在地上，
如同行在天上。

아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며,
아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이
땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.

我們日用的飲食
今日賜給我們，
오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고，

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

免我們的債
如同我們免了人的債
우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을
용서하여 준 것같이
우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고，

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探，
救我們脫離兇惡，
우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고
악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

因為國度，權柄，榮耀，
全是祢的，直到永遠。
나라와 권능과 영광이
영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

The offering will be used for the congregation's continuing mission and ministry in these changing times. Please make your offering through a Bank Deposit or a personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church

BSB: 634-634

Account: 100023784

Reference: Offering

Mail to: Mrs. Robyn Harvey
96a Champion Rd. Gladesville NSW 2111

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or robyn.49@bigpond.net.au for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

SONG: IN CHRIST ALONE (DON KOCK & SHAWN CRAIG)

In Christ alone will I glory
Though I could pride myself in battles won
For I've been blessed beyond measure
And by His strength alone I overcome
Oh I could stop and count successes
Like diamonds in my hand

But those trophies could not equal
To the grace by which I stand

*In Christ alone I place my trust
And find my glory in the power of the cross
In ev'ry victory let it be said of me
My source of strength my source of hope
Is Christ alone*

In Christ alone will I glory
For only by His grace I am redeemed
Only His tender mercy
Could reach beyond my weakness to my need
Now I seek no greater honor
Than just to know Him more
And to count my gains but losses
To the glory of my Lord
In Christ alone I place my trust ..

Don Koch | Shawn Craig
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BENEDICTION

It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ
as our Lord and King.

Our mission in life is
to make his kingdom a reality among us
and to bring it to those around us
by our words and deeds.

The way to do this is to live as he lived:
for others, in love and service.

May almighty God bless you for this task:
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
and to give shape to his kingdom.
Thanks be to God!

SUNG BLESSING: NOW UNTO HIM

Now unto Him, who is able to keep
Able to keep you from falling
And present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory
With exceeding joy

To the only wise God our Saviour
Be glory and majesty
Dominion and power
Both now and forever
Amen.

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