St Francis High Heaton

Worship - Community – Service

Notices, Readings & Prayers

22nd November 2026 Christ the King

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As we prepare to turn the page and enter the quiet hope of Advent, we are invited this week to contemplate Christ the King. The title carries a certain tension, for in a world that measures kingship in territory, military power and economic leverage, the Gospel offers something altogether different, and it is perhaps fitting to mark this feast in a week when the leaders of China, Russia and the United States gathered in Shenzhen for the first-ever trilateral summit between the three heads of state. Their theme was "Safeguarding World Peace and Promoting Strategic Stability", but it was hard to feel much peace or stability. Into this uncertain context Christ's kingship is seen not as a quaint medieval idea, but a vital counter-narrative. When we call Jesus King, we do not point to a throne room, a standing army or a nuclear deterrent, we point to the cross, to a man who washes feet, who eats with tax collectors, and who tells his disciples that the first shall be last. The kingdom he offers is not built on the leverage of power but on the endurance of love.

This might sound like a call to withdraw from the world, leaving the affairs of nations to the dictators, but in fact it is an invitation to recognise that the Church has a vocation in the public square, and that this vocation is rooted in a world-view that offers hope and resilience.

For example, the Church is a place of resilience because of theology. We hold a story larger than any single administration, treaty or summit. The Church has survived empires, been scattered and suppressed, and yet it endures, because its foundation is not political but prophetic. In a world

where alliances shift and leaders rise and fall, we offer the steady testimony that there is a justice and a mercy that outlast any government. This is not a naïve notion, it is the quiet confidence of a community that has learned over two thousand years that the world's powers are temporary, but the love of God is not.

Second the Church is a place of social resilience because it is where people from different backgrounds, different opinions and different experiences sit together on a Sunday morning. In a moment when the world seems divided into blocs, when the language of "us" and "them" dominates the headlines, the parish church remains one of the few spaces where divisions are set aside, at least for an hour. The shared act of worship, the shared breaking of bread, the shared commitment to serve the least, the last and the lost, all of it builds a social fabric that is harder to tear than any diplomatic agreement. When the world talks about strategic stability, the Church practices something more fundamental: the stability of community.

Finally, the Church is a place of resilience because it shows up. We strive to feed the hungry, visit the sick, house the homeless, supports the anxious, and stand beside those who are being left behind by the decisions of powerful men in suits. The summit in Shenzhen may shape the terms of trade, the balance of military power, the trajectory of conflicts, but it will not sit with a lonely elderly person on a cold Tuesday afternoon, or help a family struggling to pay their heating bill, or visit someone in hospital. The Church does those things, and in doing so, we embody the very peace that the summit should aspire to, not in the abstract, but in reality.

We enter Advent in an uncertain and contested world with the conviction that the King of everything is not the one who commands the greatest power, but the one who loved us to the end. What is more the faithful life of the Church, in its theology, social cohesion and practical application, as well as in worship, community and compassion, provides a resilience that we rightly call Hope.

Weekly Eco Tip — *Do not let the heat escape!*

Each evening, instead of waiting for it to get dark, close your curtains or blinds early helping to trap daytime warmth in your living space. You will also block chilly draughts and stay cosy as the colder nights draw in.

Jenny Germain

If you have a green tip to share contact jenny_germain@talk21.com

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Monthly Litter Pick

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN ST FRANCIS ECO-CHURCH LITTER PICKERS on the first Saturday of each month. The next one will be Saturday 5th December 10 - 11.30am, meet at church. All equipment provided, everyone welcome! *(children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult).*



Soup lunches!

The next soup lunch will be on Tuesday 1st December 12.30pm - 1.30pm, supporting *Practical Compassion for Destitute Children* working in the Holy Land.





The next Taizé worship will be… Monday 23rd November at 6.30pm in the Baptistry

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A parishioner has unwanted tickets for Northern Sinfonia concerts as part of their programme of Christmas music in the community, and is offering them with a £5 discount - contact the vicar if interested!

Newcastle Cathedral Thursday 26th November 1 ticket @ £15
St Gabriel's Church Saturday 28th November 2 tickets @ £20


St Francis
HIGH HEATON
Cleveland Gardens, High Heaton NE77QH
Christmas
FAYRE
FREE ENTRY
BRING CASH
28TH NOVEMBER 2026
12PM - 2PM
CAKES
TOMBOLA
RAFFLE
PRESERVES
CHRISTMAS GOODS
PLANTS
BOTTLE STALL
ACCESSORIES
HOT TURKEY OR VEGGIE SAUSAGE SANDWICHES
HOT DRINKS
CHILDREN'S BRAN TUB
CHILDREN'S CRAFT TABLE
BOOKS
TOY STALL

Worship & Prayers for Christ the King

Opening Rite

If you're at home you might wish to light a candle, make sure you are sitting comfortably and take a few deep breaths to still yourself.

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Matthew 4.17

After a short silence, all say

The kingdom is yours,
but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The power is yours,
but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

The glory is yours,
but we fall short of the glory of God:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of forgiveness:

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Collect

Silence is kept

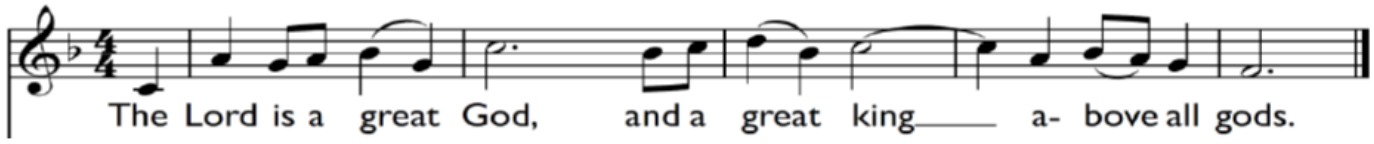
Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended
to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order
to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with

your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Psalm 95.1-7



O come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms. **/R:**

For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods. **/R:**

In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land. **/R:**

Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand. **/R:**

Ephesians 1.15-end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,

you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Gospel According to Matthew chapter 25.31-end

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me

clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Reflection

On this Feast of Christ the King we have our third snapshot of kingdom life, in which the king acts as both shepherd – separating out the animals – and judge. Jesus draws on imagery from Daniel 7 depicting the judgement day in the end times, of the royal court convening, judgement taking place, and the Son of Man being given everlasting rule as king. In this parable, judgement is for all, regardless of nation or any other difference. Likewise, the consequences apply to all, irrespective of nation or religious affiliation. This kingship is over all. The judgement makes clear distinctions: one is either a 'goat' or a 'sheep', 'righteous' or 'wicked', 'in' or 'out'. The king's judgement is determined by the character shown through each individual's actions. Those who have shown mercy – who have acted for the wellbeing of others – are given a place of honour. Those who have not shown such mercy are cast out. Verse 40 explains the reasoning: this showing of mercy goes beyond simply loving one's neighbour; what is done is done 'to' (NRSV) or 'for' (NIV) Jesus himself.

Linking the readings

On the Feast of Christ the King the readings give pictures of some of the attributes of the kingship Jesus holds. While the Old Testament readings focus on the provision, protection and faithfulness of God as shepherd-king, the New Testament readings point to the power and authority held by Jesus in that kingly role. As we head towards Advent with its focus on

Jesus' return, Ezekiel also hints at the future David-like king who will rule over and care for the people of God, and this is picked up in Jesus' parable where the criterion for judgement is that of showing love for others.

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Prayers

Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love, for the world, for peace and for the relief of refugees everywhere

On the Feast of Christ the King

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**

Praying for the Earth ***Renewable energy***

We give thanks for the power of the sun above us, for the warmth of the ground beneath us, for the freedom of the wind around us, for the strength of the waves and the rhythm of tides. We pray for ingenuity and inspiration in the research and development of renewable energy. **Amen**

From the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for the Church

Porvoo Communion: Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Anglican Communion: The Church of England Primates: Archbishop Sarah Mullally and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Deanery of Bamburgh and Glendale: Benefice of Doddington, Ilderton, Kirknewton and Wooler Vicar: Paul Knox Reader: Sara Bedwell

From our Parish Prayer Cycle this week

Pray for all residents of Parkside Avenue and Hiddleston Avenue

For the sick and those being cared for in hospital or at home

Edward Strange, Sam Cole, David Cloke, Maureen Webster, Pat Park, Shirley Collingwood, Lynne Dryden, Corinne Harris, Jo Whittam, Veronica Brown, Alastair Day, Jenny Freeman, baby Gianna Skye and Daniel Hassan

For those in residential care

Sheila Sidney-Wilmot, Doreen Richardson, Ida Smart, Irene Gibson, Jacqueline Pearson and Pat Hindmarsh

For those who have recently died

Pat Bell and Tony Bartlett

For those whose year's minds are this coming week

Thomas Park, William Riley, Thomas Redpath, Eva Cudworth, Henry Wood, George Payne, Cyril Nockels and Thomas Henry Breckons

You might like to end your prayers with The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord!
Thanks be to God!



CAPPELLA NEWCASTLE

Advent Moon



Supermoon January 2025 by K. Rzedzian

including music by

Byrd, Britten, Holst, MacMillan, McDowall and Rutti

Directed by Tim Cranfield

Organist Kris Thomsett

Sat 5th Dec 2026, at 19:30

All Saints' Church, Gosforth NE3 4ES

Tickets: £15 (early bird £13 purchased before 21 Nov)
Concession £10, U16s FREE

Registered charity number 514163

making music


Flotsam Choir
presents a
Christmas Concert
St. Francis' Church,
High Heaton NE7 7QH
Saturday, 12th December 2026
at 7pm
Tickets: £10.00
Drinks and a Raffle
on the Night

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Appeal for Christmas gifts for women in local refuges

We plan to provide gift bags for the women in local refuges. These all need to be identical so we are appealing for cash donations towards the cost. Please give any donations to Jackie or Elaine by the end of November.

Heaton Churches Together Socks & Chocs Appeal

There is a box at the back of church for any donations for all those who use the People's Kitchen. Scarves, hats, gloves, socks, warm underwear, toiletries and sweet treats would be welcome any time before 5th December! Thank you!

Community Chaplaincy Association

Shirley Community Chaplaincy Big Give Christmas Challenge

Our Bible Reading Saturdays this year will be 21 and 28 November at Holy Spirit Crawcrook. Gloria and I will be reading from the Old Testament (Joshua to 2 Chronicles) on Saturday 21 November and hope you will consider sponsoring us. The Chaplaincy helps people who have been in prison or served community sentences to make and sustain lives worth living. This year, Shirley has been awarded a place in the Big Give programme. That means that every donation made to our campaign via BigGive.org during the week of Tuesday 1st – 8th December 2026 will be doubled. That's right – DOUBLED!

Richard and Gloria Bryant

Parish Directory

Vicar: Robert Lawrance 07888 693850
robert.lawrance@newcastle.anglican.org

Honorary Associate Priest: Richard Bryant 07765 835 075,
rkbryant28@gmail.com

Reader with Permission to Officiate: Gloria Bryant 07425 134 494,
gcadman054@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Sue Flood 07792 830026
Dorothy Frankland 07530 813191

PCC Secretary & Jennifer Germain 0191 266 5144
Electoral Roll Officer jenny_germain@talk21.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Helen Swann 07487 842820
helen.swann@blueyonder.co.uk

Bulletin editors: Peter & Elaine Anderson 0191 281 8744
anders.simart@btinternet.com

PLACES OF WELCOME

We're open every Wednesday from 2 – 4pm for visitors of all ages, some from the congregation, others from further afield. Whether you're regular or it's your first time you'll be welcomed with friendly conversation and free refreshments!

We are also very grateful to our team of volunteers who run the sessions and would welcome anyone who would like to offer help, whether that be in the form of helping to set up the hall, making and serving drinks, welcoming new people or just being there to engage and interact with people – whatever your strengths might be, they will be highly valued! Contact Helen Swann placesofwelcomehighheaton@gmail.com or 07487 842 820