



## Sermon at the Cathedral Eucharist

## Christ the King

Readings: [Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14](#), [Revelation 1.4b-8](#), [John 18.33-37](#)

24 November 2024

Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, the day the church sets aside to proclaim Jesus as Lord of all creation. Our Gospel reading, gives us a glimpse into this kingship, but it also reveals to us the kind of King Jesus is and how His rule can reshape the world — especially our relationships.

In the passage, we find Jesus in a place of deep vulnerability, facing Pontius Pilate. He has been betrayed, abandoned, and falsely accused. Pilate asks Him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" What do we think being a King means to Pilate? (ask children?). For him it most likely means power, control, and dominance.

But Jesus redefines kingship by explaining, "My kingdom is not from this world." In this one statement, He declares His kingship is unlike anything the world has ever seen. It is not based on power and conquest but rather on love, service, truth, and justice.

Jesus' reign is not just for the strong and privileged but for everyone, including the marginalised and downtrodden. He is the King who walks with us, every day, every second of our day, even in our struggles, to lead us into a life that lives out the values of His kingdom.

If we are true followers of Christ, we need to look closely at our relationships and ask, "Are they fair? Are they just?" As Christ's followers, we are citizens of His kingdom, called to uphold its values in all aspects of life.

Jesus' kingship calls us to treat each other with fairness. Fairness is what allows people to live together in harmony and peace. In God's eyes, every single person is equally loved, and valued, and equally worthy of respect.

When we live as Christ wants us to live, we begin to see others through Christ's eyes. As in Isaiah 43:3 we start to realise that all are precious in God's sight, deserving of kindness, and worthy of fair treatment.

Imagine if we modelled our relationships — in our families, friendships, workplaces, and communities — on the values of Christ's kingdom. We would seek to honour each other's dignity, ensure each person has an equal voice, and share resources with generosity.

We should examine our own hearts and actions. In Paul's letter to the Colossians we are reminded to forgive one another. Are we quick to forgive? Are we careful to listen and understand others' perspectives? Do we advocate for those who have less power in society? Are we conscious of how our actions impact those around us?

Now, as I talk about our actions, I also want to talk about faith in action which is one of the sentences we use to describe what we do at Mothers Union. Some of you might already know

that I am the Diocesan President of Mothers Union here in Derbyshire, but I also work for Mothers' Union as their National Programme Manager.

I joined the Mothers' Union in my late 20's after the birth of my second child. Yes, my 20's! Despite what people might think, we are not just ladies who knit. I was drawn to the group of ladies in my church who were so loving and kind to me (and it helped that they baked great cakes) but also because they worked hard to help those in our community that needed to know that they were not forgotten.

The members of Mothers' Union live out Christ's teaching in everything they do, we live out our Faith in action. We are activists working as Christ's hands and feet on earth. At home and overseas we work to end poverty, end inequality and end injustice. We are all one in Christ Jesus, all part of one body, therefore should we not look after each other, every single person?

Being a member of Mothers' Union, meant I was constantly looking outwards, noticing where people needed support, where there was injustice. But MU is also a community of prayer. The deepening faith that grew within me also led me to become a Reader.

I have always been more of a doer than a thinker. I would much rather be out in the community, helping people, than stood at the front of a congregation, speaking to you. I mean, you are lovely!!! But I would rather be helping others, listening to the needs of others and speaking out for those who have no voice. Enabling them to **find** their voice and supporting them to speak out for themselves.

I have ended up a somewhat reluctant leader, for Mothers' Union but I try to live out Jesus' model of leadership which is based on humility and service.

It means standing up for what's right, speaking the truth in love, and working to build relationships where all people are valued.

When Pilate asks Jesus about His kingdom, Jesus responds, "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." Christ's kingdom is founded on truth, and living in His kingdom means living with integrity and honesty.

Living in truth means being honest with ourselves and with others. It means rejecting deception and striving to be genuine in all our relationships. When we choose truth, we create an environment where trust can flourish, and fairness can take root.

In our world, truth and fairness often feel in short supply, especially when we see relationships strained by dishonesty or manipulation. But Jesus reminds us that truth sets us free. In our relationships, truth-telling can be difficult, but it is essential. It builds trust, strengthens bonds, and allows us to fully support and understand each other.

In a world filled with division, rivalry, and brokenness, we are called to reflect God's kingdom in our relationships, loving fairly, acting justly and walking humbly with one another.

When we love fairly, act justly, and walk humbly with God **and** with one another, we show the world the kind of King we serve. Christ our King doesn't force us to follow Him, but He invites us into a life that transforms us and those around us.

Such a vision is not just a distant dream; it is the work of Christ among us now. And it begins in our own hearts, as we allow Jesus to shape our lives according to His truth.

As we celebrate Christ the King, let us commit to following Him not just in words but in deeds. Let us bring His kingdom into our relationships, modelling fairness, equality, service, humility, and truth. May we see each person we encounter as a beloved child of God, and treat them with the dignity and justice they deserve.

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