

Dear all,

This coming Sunday goes under the slightly strange name of *Sunday Next before Advent*. It is also often celebrated as the feast of Christ the King. This is a fascinating feast, as we explore the awkward juxtaposition between Christ, the risen, ascended and glorified king, and the servant who was clothed in purple and beaten, with a reed for a sceptre, a cap of thorns for a crown, and a wooden cross for a throne. He is the king of the Magnificat, when the whole world order is turned upside-down. A time that certainly deserves much contemplation and reflection.

There is something quite profound when we consider that the Methodist Church also keeps this Sunday as Women Against Violence Sunday. Violence against anybody, but especially violence against women, is invariably a misuse or abuse of power in a relationship. This is precisely what Jesus did NOT do. Rather, he accepted the consequences of weakness. As Paul says *...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.*

Here are some resources from the Methodist Church: [Women Against Violence Sunday \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

The hymns for the morning are: [Miles Lane "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" - YouTube](#); [Graham Kendrick - Meekness and Majesty \(Acoustic Trio Sessions\) - YouTube](#); [The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns \(Tune: St Magnus - 5vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#). Here is the first hymn to a different tune, also showing how Christians the world over can unite with good hymns and tunes! ["All Hail The Power" - Mass Choir - Classic Hymns " Ancient of Days " - - YouTube](#)

The readings are Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1: 4b-8; and John 18: 33-37. The Psalm is Psalm 93.

Anglican Chant [King's College Cambridge Psalm 93 The Lord is King \(Chant: Garrett\) - YouTube](#)

Sons of Korah [Psalm 93 - Sons of Korah - YouTube](#)

And in Hebrew [YedidYah / Adonai Malach Psalm 93 - YouTube](#)

Anthems etc. suggested for this Sunday include:

[King of Glory, King of Peace - YouTube](#) Walford Davies

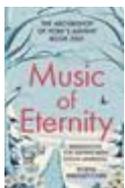
[Let All The World In Every Corner Sing \(Ralph Vaughan Williams\) - King's College Cambridge - YouTube](#)

[Lift up your heads O ye gates - YouTube](#) William Mathias

[O God, the King of glory, Z. 34 - YouTube](#) Henry Purcell

[Great King of Gods - YouTube](#) Orlando Gibbons

[Hymn of the Cherubim \(Excerpt\) - YouTube](#) Rachmaninov



Don't forget that this Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, we start our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at 9.00am. Also, in the evening we will have our alternative Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

A reminder that this year's Advent course will be based on the Archbishop of York's Advent book 2021 – *Music of Eternity* by Robyn Wrigley-Carr. They are meditations for Advent with Evelyn Underhill, a highly respected spiritual director and writer of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The cover blurb says that *Beloved spiritual writer Evelyn Underhill believed that God does not just come to us at special times, but is always coming to us. But how do we recognise his coming and make ourselves open to it?*

I would like to do another plug, for a lady I knew at my previous parish. She writes about herself... *Sharmila grew up in London, England. After graduating in History and French (Hons), she spent two decades as (Senior) Policy Adviser to the UK Government in Westminster, working on a range of policies and serving as Private Secretary to Government Ministers. She also had spells living and working in France, New Zealand and Australia. In 2018, a burnout led to a career break and ultimate departure from the Civil Service. It was through this time out that she felt directed to write and the call to mission. The Mission Post flows from that call.*

Her blog comes from her strong faith in the reality of Jesus in her life, and she would like to share that faith and sense of mission with as many as possible. She would not call herself a theologian! Her latest blog is here - [The Hem of His Garment \(themissionpost.com\)](https://themissionpost.com) Why not try it out – and follow her if you like what you see.

A final comment. Over the course of these letters, I have used a few prayers by Nick Fawcett, and I know many of you have been blessed by them, especially his COVID prayers. I recently had an email from Nick, saying that the treatment that has held his cancer at bay for a while now is ceasing to be effective. Please pray for him as he explores new avenues of treatment.

Here is his recent prayer, from his blog, on the COP26 talks [When feeling overwhelmed by the prospect of climate change and environmental catastrophe - Nick Fawcett \(devotional and reflective writer\)](#):

What's the point, Lord?  
The point of working,  
planning,  
dreaming;  
of putting my faith in anything –  
even you –  
when we're told that this planet is in crisis,  
on the verge of ecological collapse  
and that, even if we change our ways drastically now –  
which we show precious little sign of doing –  
it will almost certainly be too little,  
too late?  
I can try to change things, of course,  
and I *will* do –  
for all the difference that might make.  
But it doesn't amount to much,  
still less answer my question or give grounds for hope,

for it needs more than just a token handful to make a stand.  
It needs a wholesale rethink –  
a complete reappraisal of the way we live,  
the way we do business,  
the way we manufacture and produce,  
the way we function as a society and as part of the international community –  
if we're not to hurtle inevitably to a destruction of our own making.  
It would be easy to give up.  
To shrug my shoulders and conclude:  
eat, drink and be merry while you can,  
and devil take the consequences.  
and though sometimes I feel just like doing that,  
it can't be right,  
for abdicating our responsibility towards creation feels little better than abusing it.  
Move in the hearts of people everywhere, Lord,  
and, above all, of governments, leaders,  
corporations, multinationals,  
industrialists, engineers,  
investors, bankers, economists, businesspeople –  
all who have the power truly to make a difference.  
Give them, and people everywhere,  
courage, wisdom and determination to see beyond narrow national interest  
or short-term prosperity  
and commit to a greater good.  
Deliver us from a spirit of defeatism  
and give us time,  
and the will,  
somehow still to turn things around,  
before indeed it really is too little,  
too late.  
Amen.

This prayer, and many other excellent prayers, can be found in his latest book *Praying without pretence: being honest in prayer*.



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark