

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22ND



Christ The King

KING OF COMPASSION

READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 1: 15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

Lord Jesus, you cared for the sick and needy,
and you know how people feel.
Please help us to get alongside others,
and show us how to care for them.

Amen.



Jesus said, ‘When the Son of Man comes in glory, the whole world will be gathered before him and he will separate people as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. He will say to those on his right, “Come, you are blessed by my Father; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me 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.”

‘The sheep will answer, “When did we see you hungry and give you food, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we meet you as a stranger and welcome you, or see you naked and give you clothing? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?”

‘The king will say, “Whatever you did to the least important members of my family, you did it to me.”

‘Then he will say to those on his left, “Get out, worthless goats! You are good for nothing. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, I was naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” The goats will answer, “When did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?”

‘He will answer, “Because you did not do it to the people in need, you did not do it to me. And the goats will be sent to eternal punishment and the sheep to eternal life.”

Talk together Connect faith with everyday life

- What did the people described in the story as sheep have in common?
- What was the last thing someone did that made you feel cared for?
- Can you think of anyone you could show some kindness to this week?

Bible notes

Matthew 25.31-46

- Jesus tells a story of how the Son of Man will separate his people like a shepherd separates sheep and goats. The sheep will be on the right and goats on the left. The shepherd welcomes those on his right into his kingdom, but those on his left will be turned away.
- This passage shows how important it is that we treat people well. Those welcomed into the kingdom of heaven are the ones who cared for the hungry, the poor, the sick and the stranger. Those who didn't are not welcomed in.
- Worthiness for the kingdom is not decided by who is the best at their job, makes the most money, is the best known or even who has made the biggest difference in the world. Rather it is the small, often unnoticed, actions of feeding and clothing that God deems as important.
- Jesus makes it very clear that when you care for the 'least' – the people who aren't seen as important – you are taking care of him. Interestingly, neither group of people realised that they were taking care of Jesus. This suggests that Jesus is less interested in people who are good at following rules but in those who instead naturally love people because they know they are loved by God.
- For us today, these verses remind us that it is important we learn to see everyone as God sees them – as being valuable and worthy of care.

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Activities

Cut out and decorate a crown for Jesus

Make some sheep with any craft materials

Make a book of vouchers of kind things you can do such as tidy your bedroom, help with setting the table and washing up etc. I am sure you can think of some others.

Name

ROOTS Colouring Sheet
22-28 November 2020

Colouring time

Jesus helps us think about our behaviour by describing people as sheep and goats.



Live your faith 22-28 November 2020

Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week



 This week's Bible readings Ezek 34.11-16,20-24 · Psalm 95.1-7a · Ephesians 1.15-23 · Matthew 25.31-46

King of compassion

Notes on the Gospel reading

- Jesus tells a story of how the Son of Man will separate his people into two groups: one group is welcomed into his kingdom, the other turned away. And the deciding factor – what puts us in one group rather than the other – is how we treat other people. Those welcomed into the kingdom of heaven are those who cared for the hungry, the poor, the sick and the stranger. Those who didn't do these things are not welcomed in.

- Jesus also makes it very clear that when you care for the 'least' – people who aren't seen as important – you are taking care of him. Interestingly, neither group of people realised at that time that they were taking care of Jesus (or not). This suggests that Jesus is less interested in people who are good at following rules but in those who instead naturally love people because they know they are loved by God.

- For us today, these verses remind us that it is important we learn to see everyone as God sees them – as being valuable and worthy of care.

An active Advent calendar

Draw (or use a computer to create, and then print) a 6x4 grid onto an A4 sheet of paper. In a household, have one grid each. Working together or on your own, but with reference to today's Gospel reading, think of 24 things that you might do to express compassion to other people. Write one idea in each space on the grid. Work your way through the sheet during December – ideally one action each day.

FREE worship at home resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: www.rootsontheweb.com

Questions for reflection

- ▶ During the worst of this year's Covid-19 pandemic, who did you want to show appreciation to?
- ▶ When have you instinctively responded to a human need?
- ▶ How might you/your church/our society become more compassionate?



A prayer of approach

We come to you, Lord, people who are hungry or thirsty, strangers, imprisoned, exposed, knowing that you have come to us, too, in these same guises. In our brokenness, welcome us. And open up our defences as we come to you. Amen.

A prayer for others

*For the times when we are sick:
may we have healing.
For the times when we are isolated:
may we have company.
For the times when we are oppressed:
may we have justice.
For the times when we are exposed:
may we have dignity.
For the times when we are mistreated:
may we have humanity.
For the times when we are ignored:
may we be heard.
For the times when we ignore, or isolate, or oppress,
or expose or mistreat:
may we change. Amen.*

A personal prayer

Sometimes I am tired, or I'm preoccupied with other demands. Help me take time, help me make time, for kindness, so that rush can take its lower place, and kindness can rise up. Because you had much to do – but made time anyway. Amen.

Live your faith

Carry a piece of cotton wool with you as a reminder to be like the sheep in Jesus' story – a blessing to others through their attitudes and actions (and not like the goats, hard-hearted or dismissive of other people).

Name

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus tells a story about a shepherd sorting out sheep and goats to show how God separates the kind from the unkind.



Family time

Talk How does God want us to treat people?

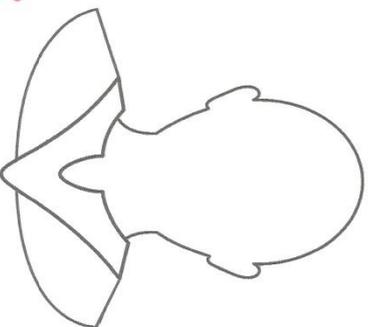
Do Practise being kind by writing a list of 10 kind things that you as a family can do this week to help each other and others.

Pray We pray for everyone who is hungry, thirsty, cold, sick or alone. Help us not to just think about ourselves but to see how we can help those around us. Amen.

Activity time



Draw the face of someone who was invited into the kingdom in the story. How would they have felt?



Puzzle

Find the 10 words below in the word search.

g	g	p	m	d	g	x	y	r	s
k	n	r	r	o	o	t	e	e	h
c	h	i	a	i	s	s	o	f	g
i	z	t	h	r	s	s	p	f	n
s	s	z	i	t	k	o	r	d	p
z	m	h	a	v	o	s	n	r	d
y	t	u	h	p	g	l	v	t	f
h	u	n	g	r	y	q	c	s	v
k	z	g	r	k	n	i	r	d	d
c	b	x	o	s	a	v	r	f	g

- sheep
- goats
- hungry
- food
- thirsty
- drink
- clothing
- sick
- prison
- stranger.

ROOTS children's sheet

22-28 November 2020



Write

Imagine you are one of the people who did kind things. What might you be thinking when you discover you have been serving Jesus? What sort of things did you do? Did you realise when you did them that you were doing what Jesus would want? Write your thoughts in the bubble.

