

This liturgy is designed for use in your homes, your gardens or anywhere else you may find yourselves. Some of you may be in small groups, others may be alone- either is fine. What follows is a framework that you can alter if the desire arises, and which contains a few additional elements you can opt to partake of.

The framework here is just that; it is not an entry into worship in and of itself. Therefore, I suggest you ready yourselves by finding somewhere as comfortable, spacious, and beautiful as possible, and still yourselves before you begin. You may like to light a candle to be a focus as you worship, and to remind you that you gather in the presence of Christ.

As you gather, you might like to have some pens/pencils/markers and paper with you to engage fully. If you are worshipping with a small group, you might like to elect one person to lead, or take turns leading through the different sections. I suggest you at least take turns praying out loud and divide up the scripture reading among you. Be prepared to pray extemporaneously (that is prayer that is not pre-written or prepared) at times, and to bring the person that you are into this time of worship.

And remember, you are none of you alone.

A Service of Worship for Reign of Christ Sunday

Call to worship

We gather now to remind ourselves, again, of our true authority.
The one that *we* report to.
Our President, our Prime Minister,
our Chairperson, our CEO,
our King:
Jesus Christ.

We come to remind ourselves of the upside-down kingdom,
the back-to-front economy,
the on-its-head corporation,
in which we dream our dreams
and orientate our feet.

This is the place
where the hungry feast,
where the stranger sits at the head of the table,
where the person dressed in tracksuit pants from the Salvos is the life of the party,
where those languishing behind razor wire are set free.
We worship to remind ourselves, again,
of who we follow.

Let us worship Christ our King.

We Sing: Gather Us In/ Here In This Place

See video link

Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame

Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth

Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

A Prayer of Thanksgiving – *based on Psalm 100*

Let us today worship the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with singing.

Let us know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us; and we belong to God; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise, giving thanks to God, blessing God's name.

Let us give thanks to God for God's goodness, for God's steadfast love which endures for ever, for God's faithfulness to all generations.

Let us give thanks for all the gifts we receive

Amen

A Prayer of Confession

You, God, are our King, even when we don't know what that means.

We ask Your forgiveness for the other "kings" that we kneel before:

money...

power...

gossip...

self-righteousness...

racial privilege...

We ask Your forgiveness, we who are broken and torn apart by our own doings and un-doings.

Guide us to be Your servants.

Lead us to trust in You as the only king we need.

Direct our faith in Your sovereign power as we strive to follow Your Son, through the power of Your Holy Spirit, we pray

Amen

Early word

See Video: Jesus is a weird King

We hear from scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

"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.”

Reflection

See video: Jesus the not so secret King

We Sing: When I Needed A Neighbour Were You There

See video link

When I needed a neighbour
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty
Were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

I was cold, I was naked
Were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

When I needed a shelter
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

When I needed a healer
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there
Wherever you travel, I'll be there
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
I'll be there

Prayers of the People

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.
You sent Your Son to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind,
freedom to captives and salvation to Your people:
anoint us with Your Spirit; rouse us to work in His name.
Loving God, by Your Spirit
bring in Your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.

Loving God, by Your Spirit
bring in Your kingdom.

Send us to speak out and proclaim Your justice in the world.
Loving God, by Your Spirit
bring in Your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world the good news of Your healing love.
Loving God, by Your Spirit
bring in Your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn, to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
Loving God, by Your Spirit
bring in Your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here for You to save Your people.
Loving God, by Your Spirit
bring in Your kingdom.

Lord of the Church, hear our prayer, and make us one in mind and heart to
serve You in Christ our Lord
Amen

We are Sent Out

God everywhere around us,
God found in unexpected places;
Meet us in faces we seek out, and those we don't.
Meet us in those we comfort, and those who comfort us.
Our humble servant King; show us as we go how to seek your kingdom in
small, soft and quiet ways.
Amen

Go friends; to love and to serve the Lord, by recognising Him in all around
you.
In the name of Christ,
Amen.