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Theme: Christ the King Sunday/Mission Sunday

10:30 Christ the King Sunday/Mission Sunday

Welcome

Call to Worship

In the Psalms we hear the word of God:

Be still and know that I am God...

We are reminded:

The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge...

In the still moment, in the presence of God,

we wait and listen for the Word of God for us today.

Song – Be thou my vision (hymnal)

Bible verse (on screen)

Acts 9: 1-20

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Prayer & Lord's prayer

For Jesus Christ, the image of the invisible God,
we give You thanks, dear Lord.
In Him we know You in Your fullness,
as loving and compassionate,
as creator of all,
as reconciler of things which are far apart, broken and ruptured.
Thank You for His message of hope,
His steadfast living out of all You stand for,
His Spirit, which draws us into new communities of compassion and healing.

We thank You for human companionship, which builds up and restores the soul.
We thank You for people around us who show us the way of the kingdom of God.
For those whose work is to provide us with what we need,
who care for us when we are sick
and delight us in so many ways by being just who they are.
And for the random kindness of strangers
which turns the ordinary into a moment of joy and meaning.

We thank You for the blessing of our environment,
and of sustenance for mind, body and soul.
For colour and beauty in nature,
and things we see and hear and feel
which bring us pleasure,
make us stop for a moment,
want to share and enjoy –
thank You, dear Lord.

Our Father.....

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory,
For ever. Amen

Mission Focus – Felicity from Bethany Christian Trust

Song – Seek ye first (hymnal)

Reflection

Offering – As the deer (video)

Prayers for offering and for others

On this Christ the King Sunday we remember that Christ's kingship does not shy away from the agony of the cross, the vulnerability of the incarnation, the risk and betrayal of human relationships in times of danger and threat. In our prayers for others, we are committing those we pray for into the hands of One who knows the frailties and troubles of human life.

And so we pray with compassion for those who hurt and fear and cry today because they have been let down by systems or circumstances or the ones they love. We remember those whose lives are most affected by climate change, war and financial difficulties, who face hunger, thirst, fire or flood in the heart of their homes and communities. Grant wisdom and conviction to those who hold the power to make a difference, on global, national and individual levels.

We pray with love for those who are lonely or in pain, and for those who are homeless, the 32,592 adults and the 14,372 children. We acknowledge the work being done by Bethany Christian Trust and people like Felicity and other charities and group that work to prevent homelessness and support those who are homeless for many different reasons. Bring encouragement and support, dear Lord, from those of us that are able to do so, whether that is continuing in prayer, or giving of our time and or money, and comfort and blessings on those who work and volunteer. Bless Felicity as she continues to work with us here at St Nicholas' and for the groups and people she supports.

We pray with faith for those we love the most, and for those who have no-one to name them before You. May Your presence surround and bless them today and always. May they know they are loved and known and seen by You. For those who grieve the loss of one they loved, we pray especially that You will encourage them with strong memories and a confidence in Your loving purpose, which holds all souls in life. May we all take comfort from Your words, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

We give You thanks for the witness of those who knew and followed You as their Lord and King,
and showed us what it meant to be a Christian.
May they know of our grateful love for them, now and always.
Amen

Song – Crown Him With Many Crowns (video)

Benediction

See that you be at peace among yourselves, my children,
and love one another.
Follow the example of the wise and the good,
and God will comfort you and help you,
both in this world
and in the world which is to come.

We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.
We believe and trust in Jesus Christ His son.
We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.
We believe and trust in the Three in One.

Grace