

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator Michael Godfrey, CYF Educator - John Graveston, Community Support Enabler - Anne Van Gend, the Diocesan office staff and Council.

For the global effort to contain the Covid19 pandemic

Those who are sick: Amy, Anne, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Bridget, Cathy, Chris, Claire Christie, Cruz and Mason, Daryl, Dorothy H, Eleanor, Ellen, Eric, Gary Griffith-Smith, Gerald, Ginny, Graham, Grant W, Jean V, Jim L, Joan F, John G, Malcolm, Mike, Mike & Corryn & Kian, Muriel and family, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Murray, Nick D, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Faye, Ruby, Val S.



Southern Coastal Deanery

21st November, 2021
34th Sunday in Ordinary time.
Reign of Christ

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays
Green Island 10.30a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays
Mornington 9.30am
3rd Sunday 4pm Soup & Communion
St Kilda 11a.m.

Midweek service
1pm communion at Holy Cross

Southern Coastal Deanery

St Margaret's 4 Seaview Road, Brighton - St Mark's 27 Shand St, GI
St Mary's 3 Whitby St, Mornington
Holy Cross 5 Bellona St. St Kilda

Southern Coastal Deanery web page: scd.org.nz

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St Kilda Warden:	Gerald Harley	456-0573

Reign of Christ (Christ the King) Sunday brings us full circle in the liturgical year. Today, our texts show us the circle of hope in which our faith is grounded and our lives transformed: God's covenant, Christ's reign, and the Spirit's abiding presence.

2 Samuel 23:1-7 This second book of Samuel draws to a close with a song of praise attributed to David. Hannah's song, which we encountered in 1 Samuel, celebrated God's faithfulness at a time of birth. David's words reflect on God's faithfulness near the time of death. David, like Hannah, grounds his hope in God's faithfulness. David's hope rests in the timeless covenant that God keeps, not in any temporal authority, including his own.

Revelation 1:4b-8 Christ's power, exercised in love and freedom, is contrasted with the oppressive power confronted by the community of this book. Notice, too, the verb tense used in verse 5: [Christ] loves us. Love is not just a past recollection of what had been done on the cross. Nor is love restricted to the promise of hope that will someday be fulfilled. Christ's love is now, it is immediate. And in that love, covenant has been struck. The crises and the problems that beset us do not define us. God in Christ creates us as a people, in the language of Revelation as a "kingdom" and as "priests."

Jesus' faithful witness to the truth in **John 18:33-37** is a model for the early Christians and Christians today. Pilate, the imperial governor of Judea, needs to know who Jesus is in terms of the powers and authorities of this world. The truth that motivates Jesus is of a different sort entirely. Their exchange draws a stark contrast between Pilate, a man who, with a word, can send troops anywhere he desires and Jesus, a wordsmith who, with parables about lost children and loving our enemies, upsets notions about God and how God operates. The

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governor who holds life and death in his hands meets the one who offers his life for the life of all.

Pilate represents an empire whose foundation is might, whose reality is power, whose leader is a god. Jesus offers the vision of a different realm, one which is grounded in seeming powerlessness, whose leader is a servant. This is the truth to which Jesus gives testimony, he was born to usher in this reign.

Truth cannot be accessed by any rational understanding or turning to some textbook, but by revelation. This truth is not a philosophy Jesus offers, but is grounded deep within his being as God's son. This truth is not a static belief, but is dynamically lived out in faithfulness, in actions such as calling the marginalized to his side, in obedience to God that seeks to do God's will, not one's own. This way of life is so engrained in Jesus, is so important to who he is and what he does, that he is willing to give his life for this truth.

In a gospel that begins with the time before time, Jesus claims his eternal role as a testimony to the truth. Christ is, was, and always will be not just a king, but "ruler of the kings of earth," to use the title from Revelation.

The Almighty One – who is, and who was, and who is to come – encircles us in hope before and beyond all time. Thanks be to God! What enduring hope do you celebrate? What enduring truth shapes your daily living? How does your faith community express its hope in God's eternal truth?

Connecting with life

Asking and answering questions of faith have been a theme throughout the recent readings. And through the questions in today's gospel reading, Jesus' identity as the Son of God and ruler of a kingdom "not from this world" is revealed. We still struggle with the work of bringing about God's kingdom here on earth.

Q How do we reflect Christ in our daily actions?

Q What's your response when someone asks you a question about your faith?

Q What kingdom building work can you support or begin in your congregation or community?

Call to worship

Friends, grace to you and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come. **And also to you!**

We gather in the love of Christ to be centred and stilled.

We open our hearts to receive anew.

We open our hearts to the mercy of Christ, who is our healing and wholeness. **We open our minds to receive anew.**

We open our ears to the wisdom of Christ, who is our grounding and inspiration. **We open our lives to receive anew.**

Opening prayer

Eternal God, your word of grace continues to sustain us, even when we think we have stopped listening. Today, may we be moved by One who invites us to follow on the paths of love and justice; paths of tender care for earth and all its creatures. This is our heart's desire. Amen.

Prayer of confession Loving God, forgive us when we misunderstand, when we try to do things our way, when we do not listen to your word and will for us. Forgive us when we try to live our lives without giving a thought or a care to what you want us to do. In this time of silence, hear our confession, and help us to envision your dream for our world (silence).

Words of affirmation

We are forgiven; **help us to forgive others.**

We are loved; **help us to love others.**

We are blessed; **help us to bless others. Amen.**

Sentence: Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!
Revelation 5:12

Collect: Majestic God, ruler of all creation, your kingdom is not of this world. Christ revealed a new truth. Raise up truth in our lives, that as your people we may see your glory, sing your praises, and live a new way. Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings. 2 Sam 23:1-7 Rev 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Tuesday 23rd November: 10am Meeting, 11am SD, 3pm Oasis,

Wednesday 24th November; Home communion, 1pm Midweek Communion @ Holy Cross 2pm-4pm Home communions, 7.30pm Link Group,

Thursday 25th November; 10.30am-11.30am Fruit & vege Distribution Green Island, 4-5.30pm F & V at St Kilda, , 7pm Study group

Prayers of the people (as we reach the end of the church year)

Into this circle of your covenant and hope, we offer our prayers for ourselves and for others.

We lift our voices to you, O God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We pray for people who have made new beginnings this year.

For those undertaking new ministries, support them with your wisdom and patience.

For those beginning new relationships, support them with your joy and capacity to love.

For new commitments to participate more deeply in community life, support them with your guidance and support.

We give all our beginnings to you.

We lift our voices to you, O God, All: who was, who is, and who is to come.

We pray for people who have experienced times that felt like endings this year.

For those who completed training and education programs, support them with your blessing and ongoing nurture.

For those who grieve the death of loved ones, support them with your comfort and assurance of life forever in your reign.

For those who struggle with the ending of a job, support them with your consolation and creative spirit.

We give all the times that feel like endings to you.

We lift our voices to you, O God, All: who was, who is, and who is to come.

We pray for people with ongoing needs.

For those who wrestle with difficult problems, and for those who care for them, support them with your discernment.

For those who provide public service to our community, support them with your protection and guidance.

For those who govern, support them with your direction and wisdom.

We give all our times to you.

We lift our voices to you, O God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Let us live with joy for what is yet to be, with thanks for what has been, and with trust for the blessings and trials of the day. Through Jesus Christ we pray,

We lift our voices to you, O God, All: who was, who is, and who is to come. Amen

Blessing:

Grace to you and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come.

And also to you!

Friends of God, go into the new week in the wise and courteous spirit of Christ. Be fully present to others and listen for the voice of God within them. Uphold them, befriend them, and honour them. In all things, be open to the Spirit who is our guide and light for the pathway.

And the blessing of God,...Amen.



**Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, richly bearing the fruit of good works,
may by you be richly rewarded;
through Jesus Christ
who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.
Amen.**