

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## The Feast of Christ the King

Bible readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

*“The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”  
(Jeremiah 23:5)*

We are living on a planet where nationalism and dominant secularism perpetuate wars resulting in huge deficit of justice, peace, goodwill, compassion and just world order.

So, let's reflect together on our Bible readings and understand the importance of the message about Our Lord Jesus Christ - the King of the Universe. The readings prompt us to become prophetic witnesses of Christ the King in this fractured world.

Prophet Jeremiah (23:1-6) prophesied about the coming of the Righteous King with a backdrop where leaders, instead of guiding their people like shepherds, had scattered them. Kings failed to act wisely and righteously. But Jeremiah boldly challenged the leaders of both spiritual and the rulers of his time to turn from their sins and wickedness. He warned the rulers that, before He abandoned and judged them with destruction, they should turn back to God.

The Church has a prophetic role to say 'God's Yes' and 'God's No' to those leaders who fail to be accountable to God while holding a privileged position.

The birth, death and resurrection, person and work of Jesus Christ reveals to the world the true nature of a righteous King.

A true king suffers for the cause of redeeming both 'sinners' and 'sinned against'. Christ the King, by dying on the cross, offered a new model of righteous kingship.

The confession of the criminal on the cross indicates the vision of Isaiah (2:4) about the future reign of God on this earth. *“God shall Judge between the nations, and shall decide dispute for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.”*

The Church shares in Christ's inheritance. Church through its confession affirms Christ the King, a true light in our dark world. Paul encourages the church at Colossae not to be afraid of darkness and continue to proclaim boldly the supremacy of Jesus Christ. All the thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities of both the spiritual and physical worlds were created by and under the authority of Christ Himself. Jesus is Christ the King – our Lord and the King of Universe. Amen

**The Rev Dr Sarah Gill, Vicar of Blackburn St Stephen and St James**

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