

**Worship for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
*from Brian & Clare Kennard*

“The LORD is King, and He rules the nations.”  
(Psalm 22:28)

**Suggested Hymn:** *The splendour of the King*

**THE SPLENDOUR OF THE KING,**

Clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice,  
All the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light,  
And darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at His voice,  
And trembles at His voice.

*How great is our God, sing with me,  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God.*

And age to age He stands,  
And time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the end,  
Beginning and the end.  
The Godhead, three in one,  
Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb,  
The Lion and the Lamb.

Name above all names,  
Worthy of all praise;  
My heart will sing:  
How great is our God.  
(Repeat)

**Prayer time:**

*Be still and focus on the awesome God we serve:  
great beyond all words, but revealing Himself  
through His Word, and most clearly through the  
Word who became flesh - the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Express your adoration, worship and praise in  
whatever ways you can.*

**The Bible says,** “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”  
( 1 John 4: 8-9)

*Let God speak to you about the attitudes and actions that need changing in your life. Confess to Him your weaknesses and failures, and receive His cleansing and forgiveness as He has promised.*

**Prayer for today (“Collect”):**

Servant Lord,  
grant us both the opportunity and the will  
to serve you day by day.  
May all that we do  
and how We bear each other’s burdens  
be our offering of love and service  
to the glory of your name.

**Amen.**

**Reading:** If you have a Bible of your own, please read **Psalm 22**

**Reading: John 18: 33-37...Jesus before Pilate**

<sup>33</sup>Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" <sup>35</sup>"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." <sup>37</sup>"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

**Reflection:** ‘...another King, one called Jesus’  
(Acts 17:7)

One way of expressing the Good News (Gospel) is to declare that we have found the right person to rule the world – to rule our society and our individual lives –namely, Jesus. What’s more, He alone is someone in whom we can have complete confidence – “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power.....” (Revelation 5:12)

So, Jesus is King. There are innumerable hymns on this theme as well as scripture passages. But, what kind of King is Jesus? Here are lines from four hymns for you:

### 1. A present and powerful King.

“The King is among us, His Spirit is here”. In his earthly ministry, recorded in the Gospels, just both spoke and acted with authority – “even the wind and the waves obey Him” That Jesus is the same “yesterday, today and forever” so we can boldly say with St. Paul “We are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 5:17)

### 2. The humble, servant King.

“This is our God, the servant King” John records for us in his Gospel that Jesus took the humblest role and washed the feet of his disciples (Chapter 13). And why? No need to guess, because Jesus tells us: “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (vv13-14). The Jesus-like attitude for us when we interact with others is not, “What can I get out of this person” but rather “What can I give?”...which leads to

### 3. The King of love

“The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never” Contrast this with those religious systems which seek to impose their teachings by violence, of which there are plenty of examples today. We have to admit, too, that Christianity (at least the organised structure) has failed here..think colonialism, Crusades and so on. No, “live a life of love” as St. Paul commands – show a better way!

### 4. The coming King.

“Sing we the King who is coming to reign, glory to Jesus the Lamb who was slain”. The Jesus story isn’t finished yet! Perhaps one of the most important verses in the whole Bible is found in Revelation 11:15 which, speaking prophetically declares “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever” Jesus himself promised to return to this sin-sick world, not this time as a helpless baby but as the conquering King. The early Christians had a Greek word for it: Marantha, which basically means “Our Lord, come”. Have we the same longing for the rule of Christ in the world? It will show itself by the way we let Christ rule in our lives today and tomorrow! Jesus asked this challenging question: Will the Son of man find faith on the earth when he comes?” (Luke 18:18) Come, Lord Jesus! **Amen.**

### Prayers of intercession

In your own words, remember before God...for a genuine and lasting peace in Israel..those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisis ....all those “on the front line” whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....and the many other difficult problems humanity faces...and for yourself and your family. Remember, too, thankfulness!

### The Lord’s Prayer (traditional version):

Our Father, who 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### Hymn suggestion: *Crown Him with many crowns* (selected verses)

Crown him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon his throne,  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of peace,  
Whose power a scepter sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
And all be prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end,  
And round his pierced feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.

**The blessing:** Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. Amen.