This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home by a local preacher in the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

You may wish to read Philippians 2:5-11 before praying the opening prayer.

**Philippians 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
   did not regard equality with God
   as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
   taking the form of a slave,
   being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
   he humbled himself
   and became obedient to the point of death—
   even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
   and gave him the name
   that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus

   every knee should bend,
   in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
   that Jesus Christ is Lord,
   to the glory of God the Father.

**Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge you as our Saviour and King, as we worship you this day help us to understand a little more of what that means, so that we may live our lives in fullness of joy and in a way that is pleasing to you. **Amen.**

**Hymn: At the name of Jesus (Singing the Faith 317)**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7w-tDjlpgk>

At the name of Jesus

every knee shall bow,

every tongue confess him

King of Glory now.

'Tis the Father's pleasure

we should call him Lord,

who from the beginning

was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,

to receive a name

from the lips of sinners

unto whom he came,

faithfully he bore it

spotless to the last,

brought it back victorious

when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant

with its human light,

through all ranks of creatures

to the central height,

to the throne of Godhead,

to the Father's breast;

filled it with the glory

of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;

there let him subdue

all that is not holy,

all that is not true;

crown him as your captain

in temptation's hour:

let his will enfold you

in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus

shall return again,

with his Father's glory,

with his angel train;

all the wreaths of empire

meet upon his brow,

and our hearts confess him

King of Glory now.

 Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

**Let us pray together:**

Jesus, while we acknowledge you as King, we know that you are a king unlike any earthly king. A king unlike any that we could imagine, for when we think of kings we think of power and privilege, trumpets and fanfare, palaces, and riches.

And yet you left heaven to meet us your creation on earth. Choose a stable over a palace. And a cross in death.

You are a king who invites all to come as they are whether rich or poor; busy and hassled; lonely and bored; happy and joyful. You are always happy to see us even in our reluctance, always anxious to speak to us to remind us of your great love for us.

And knowing that you love us we bring our confessions to you,

For the times we have placed ourselves above others and above you,

For the times we have abused our positions and bent the rules to suit ourselves,

For the times we have looked down on others,

We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Even during difficult times, God is with us, loving and forgiving us. Let us receive that love and forgiveness now. Amen.

**Readings**

2 Samuel 23:1-7

**23**These are the last words of David:

“The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,
    the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
    the hero of Israel’s songs:

**2**“The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me;
    his word was on my tongue.
**3**The God of Israel spoke,
    the Rock of Israel said to me:
‘When one rules over people in righteousness,
    when he rules in the fear of God,
**4**he is like the light of morning at sunrise
    on a cloudless morning,
like the brightness after rain
    that brings grass from the earth.’

**5**“If my house were not right with God,
    surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,
    arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation
    and grant me my every desire.
**6**But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns,
    which are not gathered with the hand.
**7**Whoever touches thorns
    uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear;
    they are burned up where they lie.”

Revelation 1:4-8

### Greetings and Doxology

**4**John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30702a)] before his throne, **5**and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, **6**and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! **Amen.**

**7**“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30705b)]
    and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
    and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30705c)]
So shall it be! Amen.

**8**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**Gospel Reading**

John 18:33-37

**33**Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

**34**“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

**35**“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

**36**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.”

**37**“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.”

**Time to Reflect**

We come to the Sunday, which is the last in our lectionary year, the day we might know as “Christ the King Sunday”. Next week, the 1st of Advent, we begin a brand-new lectionary year, as we make our preparations for Christmas and the coming of Jesus whom we call the King of Kings.

What comes to mind when you think of a king? What do you picture? What things do kings have and how do they act?

Did you picture a man dressed in fine clothes, a robe around his shoulders, seated on a throne, a crown on his head, and servants in attendance? A castle and riches? Did you picture someone in charge giving orders and instructions, perhaps a little bossy?

Today we are remembering Jesus as King but Jesus’ life on this earth was very unlike that of what we imagine when we think of a king. It’s very different from what our children play when they play kings and queens or dress up as them.

My children are all now young adults but when they were little, they loved the series of touchy-feely board books that all start “That’s not my…” And finish with the sentence “That’s my… it’s … is so…”, you have probably seen them.

I wonder if we wrote one about Jesus being our King how it would go?

Perhaps something like this…

That’s not my king his robe is too glittery

That’s not my king his crown is too hard

That’s not my king his sceptre is too short

That’s not my king his throne is too smooth

That’s not my king his treasure is too rough

That’s my King his smile is so loving…

Maybe have a go at writing your own thoughts.

Today, as the people of Jesus, surely part of our responsibility is to support the vision of the one, we call King. To live it out in reflection of our king’s values.

Jesus consistently reached out to serve the underserved, the neglected, the oppressed and the hurting. He is the king who fed the hungry and healed the broken. As members of his kingdom, we are surely called to do the same.

To think further on: What kind of King is Jesus and how are we to help bring his Kingdom to this earth?

Take a time to sit quietly

**A time of prayer**

Father God,

As we have thought about kings, we think of those who rule and have power and influence. We pray for our Queen and

 government, for politicians and those in big business. May they make wise and just decisions and remember that they are responsible to others and to you.

We pray for those who are rich and famous that they may keep in touch with reality and use their fame and wealth both for others as themselves.

We pray for those people who are our role models, whom we look up to and admire, we thank you for those people who have helped us make wise decisions. May they know your love and support.

We pray for all who feel that they are nobody – maybe because of lack of wealth, status, or due to an illness or disability. Let them know your healing and love, through our words and actions, for everyone is of worth to you.

We pray for ourselves, for we too will be special to others, stars in their eyes, we pray that we may live up to the best that we are able with your help, depending on your grace and strength day by day.

**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn: What kind of love is this (Singing the Faith 286)**

Sing/read/pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTsfZnOlReo>

What kind of love is this

that gave itself for me?

I am the guilty one,

yet I go free.

What kind of love is this,

a love I've never known;

I didn't even know his name --

what kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this,

that died in agony?

He who had done no wrong

was crucified for me.

What kind of man is this,

who laid aside his throne

that I may know the love of God --

what kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved;

it is the gift of God.

He destined me to be his own

such is his love.

No eye has ever seen,

no ear has ever heard,

nor has the human heart conceived

what kind of love is this?

Bryn Haworth and Sally Haworth

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**A prayer of blessing**

As we go into this next week may we know God’s love, strength, and guidance. **Amen.**

Original Materials by Yvette Edwards, Local Preacher in the Newport and Lower Wye circuit.

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