

2021-11-21 ... 10am Sermon ... Revd Sue Armstrong

Daniel 7: 9 – 10, 13 – 14

'Christ the King'

As we come to the end of our lectionary year we find ourselves thinking about Kingship. The way in which it is regarded by Pilate and the way in which Jesus regards it. Two very different views!

Our experience too is very different. To us, monarchy has for so long spoken of security, tradition, stability – it's easy to forget that for many others Kingship means something very different. Just as in Jesus' day Kingship means power, plain and simple, despotic, autocratic and always threatening. The power of life and death in a world where ordinary people were pawns in a game and what was important to them could be snatched away at any time.

When Jesus is questioned, his response is very clever, he avoids saying he is a King but speaks of his Kingdom and points out the difference between earthly kingdoms and his kingdom. I'm always reminded here of the wonderful tapestry of Christ the King, designed by Graham Sutherland for Coventry Cathedral, and the impact it had on me when I saw it in the 60's.

God's Kingdom lasts through time- again and again we hear it defined as everlasting, never ending, eternal and for ever – this King is nothing like the kings of this world and his power is not the sort of power the world understands.

We've heard a lot about power recently – the power of terrorists to destroy life, the power of wealth over nations in poverty struggling to survive, the power of the media.

Our world cries out for a different sort of Kingship, a different sort of power and a different way of being together.

The response of Jesus to the power of the world was to choose to go freely to his death after suffering the same injustice, dangers, threats and suffering that we all face.

Christ the King is still Jesus, the Son of Man who walks with us and reaches out to us in our need, understanding from experience what it is to be human, showing us his mercy and compassion.

Christ the King has been with us as we journeyed through the year.

Christ the King will go with us as we journey on into next year.