Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose this week's virtual service for Christ the King, prepared by Judith. Starting with some hymns…

'Christ triumphant', to John Barnard's rousing tune, Guiting Power, from Westminster Presbyterian church, Buffalo, with enthusiastic improvisation on the organ (not sure about the green bow tie, though):
https://youtu.be/SVJlEaT5wBM

and 'O worship the King', to Hanover, from a Songs of Praise recording:
https://youtu.be/Dv2BqFgm6_M

Jack Heyford's popular worship song, 'Majesty':
https://youtu.be/jWSy18_Jv7Y

'Rex tremendae' (aweful majesty) from Mozart's Requiem, Bayerischen Rundfunks choir and orchestra under Bernstein:
https://youtu.be/a76GyB8W3bw

Henty Walford Davies' setting of George Herbert's poem, 'King of Glory, King of peace', sung by Guildford Cathedral choir , conducted by Barry Rose:
https://youtu.be/akCAY8-7z4k

'King of Kings', a meditative worship song from Hillsong:
https://youtu.be/Of5IcFWiEpg

and finally, from Martin, 'Adoration' by Brenton Brown.
A worship song with lyrics:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pHY4nZb-Vg

With all good wishes
Chris



SERVICE SHEET FOR
21ST NOVEMBER
CHRIST THE KING

O Lord our God, you rule over all things and you accomplish all things. You never remove your hands from your works, nor ever shall. Guide us, we pray, with the power and the wisdom with which, from the beginning, you have loved and made all things; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Julian of Norwich (c.1343-c.1416)

CONFESSION

O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory: holy is your name, Lord God almighty. In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away, and to cleanse our lips to speak your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Common Worship)

COLLECT

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS

Daniel 7:9-10,13,14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

REFLECTION

Today's readings highlight facets of 'kingship'; the gospel reading is the account of a man who assumes he has earthly power questioning the one who has power over heaven and earth, and not understanding the answer. Jesus stands before Pilate, as the complete antithesis of the common perception of a king. Pilate, the representative of the 'superpower' of the known world faces the wreck of a young man, fresh from a humiliating mock trial. A king? It might help if we consider where true power really lies. Pilate thinks he knows, but *he's* kept in his position by a mighty worldly empire and its armies. Without that backup, he's powerless. Jesus, versed in the scriptures, two of which we have just read, understands the supreme majesty of his kingdom. Later, John the Divine puts it into a succinct phrase, 'the ruler of the kings of the earth'. Monarchy is a concept which we may think we understand in our human experience, but Jesus, as so often in the gospel narratives, turns human concepts upside down. 'My kingdom is not from this world'. Pilate is incapable of understanding. Jesus knows the truth.

PRAYERS

Grant to those who seek you, O Lord, the gift of your kingdom, the comfort of your grace and the vision of your glory, for your own name's sake. Amen.
(Book of Common Order 1562)
Lord, at the end of this Church's year, we thank you for the fellowship of worship, whether within church buildings, or by virtual means, and for the opportunity to search for the truth which you teach us. Help us all to continue to meet you in prayer, study and worship, acknowledging you to be King of kings and Lord of lords. We pray for the world, thinking especially of all who are wrongfully imprisoned; for victims of poverty, famine or natural disaster.
We pray for all who hold the power and responsibility that comes with authority. We pray that the Spirit of Christ the King will grant them humility and a willingness to stand alongside those who depend on them for leadership. (Katherine Smith)
We pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially for…….....
We give thanks for the lives of those we love but no longer see, especially for those who have encouraged us in our faith.
Defend us, O Lord, with your heavenly grace that we may continue yours for ever and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until we come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen. (BCP)

We say **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We share **THE GRACE**

A FINAL PRAYER

From the throne of your glory, O Lord, send forth your wisdom to live in our hearts, to be at work in our lives and to speak in our conscience; that our thoughts, words and actions may be according to your will and reveal your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Aelred of Rievaulx (c.1109-1167)

Illustration(top): Statue of Christ the King, Lisbon, Portugal