**Morning Praise @ Home 7th May 2023**

**A Celebration Service for the Monarch**

**Opening prayer**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. *Romans 12.9,10*

Dear friends, we have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving,

to seek forgiveness of our sins, to hear and receive God’s holy word,

and to pray for the needs of the world.

We also gather this day to pray for our King, that, both now and always,

God may grant him wisdom and grace for his ministry among us.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we, with Charles our King, give ourselves to the service of God and others, that our communities may flourish and be places of trust and friendship.

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, for as you were sent by the Father, so you send us.

Equip Charles our King and all your people with the gifts to fulfil our calling,

that we may love as you loved, serve as you served, and willingly follow wherever you lead.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Reading Matthew 5: 6 – 9 and 14 – 16

**Reflection from John**

They have come in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

* Young and old, tall and small
* Good and bad
* Strong and weak
* Popular and hated.
* Even in the Bible there were good and bad ones.

KINGS I mean.

• I wonder what you think of when you hear the word ‘king’?

• What do you think it means to be a ‘good’ king?

Jesus had some great thoughts for leaders and kings.

Not long after Jesus had first started to preach and teach, a large crowd followed him and his disciples. He moved to higher ground, sat with them and shared what are commonly referred to as the ‘Beatitudes’ (from the Latin for ‘blessings’).

In these, Jesus said:

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right in God’s eyes.*

*Blessed are the merciful…*

*Blessed are the pure in heart…*

*Blessed are the peacemakers…*

They are good words for a King and all of us.

Christians around the world look to Jesus to help shape how they live their lives. Indeed, the bible describes how Jesus spent a lot of time with his disciples and others.

Through his teaching and example, he demonstrated to his disciples how each of them could and should love themselves, others, the world and God.

A little later on Jesus said some other brilliant words.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

I get the impression that the King really does want to share the light of Jesus in the way he lives and rules. Listen to his Christmas Message from 2022.

*In the much-loved carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” we sing of how “in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.” My mother’s belief in the power of that light was an essential part of her faith in God, but also her faith in people – and it is one which I share with my whole heart. It is a belief in the extraordinary ability of each person to touch, with goodness and compassion, the lives of others, and to shine a light in the*

*world around them. This is the essence of our community and the very foundation of our society.*

We could see within the Coronation Service the ways in which the King is called to express the ways he wishes to follow Jesus’ teaching and example as given in the Beatitudes:

be merciful;

be pure in heart;

be a peacemaker,

and hunger and thirst for living God’s right ways.

If like me you sometimes write a TO DO list to help you sort out what is important then you might say that through the Coronation, the King expresses what he wants ‘to do’ and who he wants ‘to be’ as he rules.

THE Coronation was KING Charles BIG DAY but now he and we have to live out our **To Do** and **To Be** List.

The Disciples of Jesus also had a TO DO AND A TO BE LIST

Jesus set the disciples a mission – to shine brightly in the world. This is a call which inspired the very first disciples and continues to inspire billions of Christians across the world today. Christians believe that all have a key part to play in creating a world where all can flourish – all life, not just humanity; this is God’s wish. A clear ‘to do’ list and a ‘to be’ list.

That means we too should have a to do and a to be list. It’s not a selfish *I want* list, but a list to live distinctively as we serve others.

The most special part of the Coronation Service was a part we didn’t see where the King was anointed with holy oil.

Olive Oil was always used to ask God’s blessing when someone was given a very big task to do.

Charles was anointed just like King Solomon was by Zadok the Priest in the Old Testament and now every Christian King since.

If you want to live God’s way you need God’s help and strength. Will you join with the King and ask for God’s blessing so that you may bless the lives of others?

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession**

For Charles our King, that you may pour upon him abundant gifts to help him fulfil the promises made at his coronation:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

That he will have the grace, wisdom, and strength to live a life of service to you and to his people:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

For Camilla the Queen Consort, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family;

that they may love and support the King as he bears the burden of his office:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

For the building up of the Church under its Supreme Governor, for the building up of all Christian people,

and for mutual understanding and fellowship between all people of faith:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

For this United Kingdom, for His Majesty’s other Realms and Territories, for the whole Commonwealth of Nations, for their governments and ministers, and for all who are called to public service,

that they will seek justice, mercy, and peace:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of all people, for those who care for others and for the environment, and for all in need:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***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 today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**