



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## **THIS SUNDAY —November 20 & Beyond**

### **Glorious Loving Power from the King of Kings**



For several decades now, the Episcopal Church has joined the Roman Catholic Church in celebrating the last Sunday of the Ecclesial Year as Christ the King Sunday.

In so doing, we join in the recognition that the long-awaited Savior that was eagerly expected in the Advent Season, incarnate at Christmas, manifested as God's beloved Son in Epiphany, unjustly tried and crucified by the dark powers of the day during Holy Week, gloriously resurrected at Easter, and later on ascended to be in perfect union with His Father and Our Father, is indeed the unquestionable King of Kings and Lord of Lords of our world, and all the

worlds visible and invisible.

There has always been, especially in our modern age, a tendency to oppose kingly power and the manifestation of true love.

Interestingly, in the Hebrew Bible we do not find kings, but judges—people who were recognized by the people for their wisdom and character to represent their interests—until the time of Saul and David. Even the Prophet Samuel warned the people about the dangers of adopting a monarchy, and only accepted it as an inevitable evil due to the perils of the strong nations surrounding them that were ruled by kings.

Later on, the Israelites always held the ideal that a true King should always recognize God's supremacy, and rule under His guidance to favor justice and show mercy to the people. Their ideal Messiah would be a king whose rule would restore peace and harmony to Israel and all the nations; all would be healed and death would be no more.

This is why when Jesus—whose powerful words and deeds of reconciling love were well-known by most of the population—enters Jerusalem mounted on a donkey for the Passover Feast, He is proclaimed as the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

When monarchies all around the world were replaced to a great extent (some countries still have them, but their real power has been greatly diminished) by more democratic forms of government, it was done mainly because people rejected the absolute power of sovereigns, which in most cases did not represent the people's interests they were claiming to defend, but their own personal interests and whims.

Nothing is farther away from the manifestation of true love than the concentration of power in the hands of a tyrant whose rule only serves themselves and their close relatives, friends, and allies. Absolute power of this kind in almost ninety-percent of the cases totally corrupts those who hold it, and becomes a real curse for the society in question.

For our present-day minds it is often hard to relate the idea of absolute power with reconciling love, even when we acknowledge that our loving God reigns supreme in the universe.

Most of the time we would rather call Him Father than Omnipotent God, although the latter name is still widely used.

In the case of Jesus, the perfect image of the invisible God, because He is totally human as He is divine, it is perhaps even harder to associate Him with an absolute ruler.

His life was one of authentic humility and self-sacrifice, to the point of giving Himself to us for the sake of love. Even so, it is undeniable that even while still on earth He gave signs of His power over the forces of darkness and evil, casting them out and restoring lives to wholeness.

One of the best writings in which we can better understand how the idea of relentless love and power can be reconciled is the fragment of the letter of Paul to the Colossians that the lectionary brings us for this last Sunday of the Ecclesial Year (Colossians 1: 11-20).

I strongly recommend the reading of this whole piece of Scripture, but I would like to highlight some parts here that can help us grasp the appropriateness of calling our Savior King of kings and Lord of lords.

“He Himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.”

Could anyone have said it more explicitly? I hardly think so.

The Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Psalm 46 Luke 19:29-38

## CALENDAR

**Note:** We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

**SUNDAY** Christ the King Sunday

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

**Christian Formation** every second and fourth Sunday of the month at Noon. For November only, Christian Formation will be on the first and fourth Sundays. Topic: Communicating with God Rector's Study

**TUESDAY** Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

**THURSDAY** Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

**FRIDAY** 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

**SUNDAY** The First Sunday of Advent

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

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## **OUR CORE VALUES:**

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally