

## November Prayers

### Christ the King

Sovereign Lord, maker of heaven and earth, we worship you as the God of power, whose son Jesus Christ reveals himself to us as king.

In a world of sin, where democracies are so easily corrupted, and dictators are rarely benevolent, we look to you, to your pattern of kingship, to see how the world might work in ways that bring justice and fairness for all.

We lust for power, thinking we can then wield it to build a better world,  
But yours is the path of powerlessness, the crown of thorns, the cross-bearing walk-of-shame.

We rush into bringing justice with violence, be it with a nation's armies or with an individual's words of spite,  
But in your hands we see no sword-hilt, no pistol-grip, only the nails of a cross.

We measure wealth with coins and bank balances, and convince ourselves we need money to build a better world.

But in you we see wealth in how much we need rather than how much we have. In you, our King, we see the world turned upside down by self-giving love.

Lord, where our world is driven sour by the lust for power, be it at home, at church, at the work place, or in our governments – free your people from bitterness and frustration, fill us with a life-giving spirit so that all people may see the world changed by the kind of power that grace alone can bring.

Where we barely notice the violence we bring upon others, when we are blinded from our own rage – show us again the king who – when faced with the mocking of an angry mob - was silent, like a sheep before the shearer.

Where greed drives us, consumes us, deceives us – open our eyes again to see how the crowds, the religious leaders, the political authorities – all were brought up short when faced with the peasant builder from Nazareth.

Christ the King, make us humble enough to be agents of your self-giving, grace-filled, life-changing, world-making power.

### Remembrance Day

Lord God of hosts, we worship you as the God in whose name countless armies have marched and endless battles are fought. And in our world of growing violence and unrest, we pray for peace.

We lament that each new generation must learn the art of peace for itself, only after it has suffered the ravages of war. And we want to remember well.

We lament the deaths of those who have fought in wars, at the end of which we see so little lasting peace. And we want to remember them.

We lament the victims of war who no one misses: for those whose lives are only known to us as statistics. And we want to remember them.

We lament that so often, the only lessons we learn from war – are how to disguise our own nation's violence, how to fight wars by proxy, how to hide casualty lists and civilian deaths.

We lament the power that defence industries can hold over governments.  
We lament that war is so often declared long before it becomes a final option.  
We lament that those who work to prevent war are rarely celebrated as heroes.

As we remember those who have given their lives in war, those who have lost their lives in war, and those whose lives have been forever damaged by war, we cry for peace – and ask that by your grace, you will make us agents of peace.

### **Prisoners Sunday (20th November)**

God of justice, God of mercy

We pray for those in prisons in our country, especially for those who feel the pain of fear, disgrace or hopelessness. We pray that they may encounter you as the God of love, of grace and of hope.

We pray for those wrongly imprisoned by injustice, especially for those who endure torment and fear, who suffer beyond the reach of our news headlines, beyond our knowledge and beyond our care. May they encounter you as the God who has suffered unjustly, the God of profound empathy and compassion. With them, we cry to you for justice.

We pray for those angrily imprisoned by bitterness, hatred or distrust for others. Save them from the coffin of their own loathing. May they encounter you as the one who floods our lives with grace, loving-kindness and forgiveness for others.

We pray for those who are unwittingly imprisoned by greed, selfishness and materialism. May they encounter you as the God of the outcast, the downtrodden, the marginalized. Reveal to them the true meaning of the cross, that they may encounter the joy of your resurrection life.

We pray to you, our crucified God and our Redeemer  
For those who are imprisoned, bring freedom  
For those who are without hope, bring salvation  
For those who are bound, bring liberation.  
For the sake of your Holy name.