

The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice

of

St Saviour
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



on

SUNDAY 7th MAY 2023 at 3 P.M.

at

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, STRATFIELD MORTIMER

The phrase 'Kingdom of God' describes not a place, but a way of being – a 'reign' of justice, mercy, and love – and Christians have always believed that Jesus Christ came to bring this 'way' to our world (Mark 1.15). In this spirit the New Testament gives the title 'King of Kings' to Jesus Christ (Revelation 19.16). In the Coronation Service the King's responses echo the teaching of Jesus Christ who came not to wield power by force but to show the power of love (Matthew 20.28).

The whole Coronation Service has an inclusive spirit and the beauty of its liturgy is a great celebration of tradition and joy. Yet behind the pageantry and the words and ceremonies lies another message, which is the King's commitment to his new role as monarch – made clear through prayers and promises and oaths – to follow the one who is 'King of Kings' in a life of loving service.



THE GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Our Stratfield Mortimer service of commemoration and thanksgiving reflects the Coronation Service itself which always takes place within the context of the Eucharist or Lord's Supper. The greeting and introduction seeks to focus the service as a whole, lay out its theological, geographical, historical and personal context, and declare the service's intention.

The Coronation Service takes place during the season of Easter, which lasts from Easter Sunday until Pentecost when the church remembers and celebrates 'the gift of the Holy Spirit' – a sign of God's constant and reassuring presence with us. It is because it is Eastertide that the greeting is 'Alleluia', a word which means 'praise God' and is especially associated with the resurrection of Christ (John 20).

The introduction invites us to share in a renewed commitment to loving service.

HYMN

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One, in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.**

Vicar The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

**All Alleluia. Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Dearly beloved, we are gathered to offer worship and praise to Almighty God;
to celebrate the life of our nations;
to pray for Charles, our King;
and to give thanks with joy for his crowning and anointing,
as he is set apart and consecrated for the service of our people.
Let us dedicate ourselves alike, in body, mind, and spirit,
to a renewed faith, a joyful hope, and a commitment to serve one another in love.

SUNG KYRIE ELEISON

'Kyrie eleison' – Greek for 'Lord, have mercy' – is an ancient prayer of the church that has been used at the beginning of the Eucharist for at least around 1600 years. We use it still to remind ourselves that no human being is perfect in their actions, thoughts and relationships; in other words, 'all have sinned' (Romans 3.23). It is therefore a moment to remember that we are all frail and imperfect human beings in need of God's gift of healing.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

THE COLLECT

This Collect has been written specially for the Coronation. The first line is taken from the popular hymn 'Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour' and continues to expound the themes of loving service which are at the heart of the Coronation celebrations.

Let us pray
Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour: look with favour
upon thy servant Charles our King,
and bestow upon him such gifts of wisdom and love
that we and all thy people
may live in peace and prosperity
and in loving service one to another;
to thine eternal glory,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen

HYMN

**I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.**

**And there's another country I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness
and all her ways are peace.**

THE KING'S PRAYER

The King's Prayer continues to reflect the theme of loving service. It is inspired by biblical language (Galatians 5) and also the language of the much-loved hymn 'I vow to thee my country' which is itself inspired by words from the Bible (Proverbs 3.17).

All Let us make our own the King's Prayer.
God of compassion and mercy
whose Son was sent not to be served but to serve,
give grace that I may find in thy service perfect freedom
and in that freedom knowledge of thy truth.
Grant that I may be a blessing to all thy children,
of every faith and conviction,
that together we may discover the ways of gentleness
and be led into the paths of peace.
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SUNG ALLELUIA

A gospel acclamation is the welcoming and celebration of the word of the gospel.

Psalm 47: 1.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
O clap your hands together, all ye people;
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the Lord is high and to be held in awe;
he is the great King upon all the earth.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL – LUKE 4:16-21

The Gospel (from the Old English word 'Godspell', which is itself a translation of a Greek word meaning 'Good News') is St Luke's account of Jesus at worship in the synagogue. A synagogue is a local place of Jewish worship and teaching and today there are many in this country. Jesus was an observant Jew and is here shown reading from the prophet Isaiah. Jesus applies the words of the text to himself, and it is these words which are the hallmark of what Christians understand the kingdom of God to be about: healing, freedom, justice, and peace. The language of anointing points to the most solemn element in the Coronation Service, when the King is anointed – set apart – for the service of our people.

At the Coronation Service the St Augustine Gospels are used for the processions and readings. These Gospels were carried to England by St Augustine of Canterbury from Rome in 597, where Pope Gregory the Great had presented them to him.

All The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.
All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up:
and, as his custom was,
he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day,
and stood up for to read.
And there was delivered unto him
the book of the prophet Isaiah.
And when he had opened the book,
he found the place where it was written,
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he hath anointed me
to preach the gospel to the poor;
he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,
to preach deliverance to the captives,
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty them that are bruised,
To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
And he closed the book,
and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down.
And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.
And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

SUNG ALLELUIA

Psalm 47: 6.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God:
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

A TIME OF REFLECTION

THE INTERCESSIONS

Vicar Let us pray.

Minister For the peace of the world and 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

All hear our prayer.

Minister Loving God, you have taught us that the power of the heart
is greater than the power of wealth and might.
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign of love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;
to him be glory and power for ever.

All Amen.

Minister Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our King
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 all your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The 'Our Father,' known by English speakers as 'The Lord's Prayer,' was the gift of Jesus to his followers when they asked him how they should pray. We use this version, based on Jesus' words as they are recorded in Matthew's Gospel.

Vicar Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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 this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.**

THE BLESSING

Blessings are a precious and valuable part of services especially in marriages and ordinations to both of which a Coronation can be compared. They summarise all that has gone before, and entreat God's love, protection, grace, and wisdom upon The King, now, and in all the days of his reign.

Vicar God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants,
life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

'God save The King' is both anthem and prayer, invoking God to spare and protect the Sovereign to ensure good governance.

**God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King.**

**Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.**

Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. *The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently. Thank you.*

