

you, sorry to say. There is only one person I trust implicitly, and that's Jesus, who thankfully is also my king. Who thankfully rules by divine right; Jesus didn't set himself up, the heavenly Father crowned him king, authorised him king, blesses him as king. This is the guy I want to trust, I want to listen to, I want to place my life into his hands.

Palm Sunday points to the cause of our worlds pain; we're all left playing god, and a multitude of little self-absorbed individuals who believe its their right to get what they want, when they want, how they want only leads to hell on earth.

Palm Sunday, Jesus rides in to be crowned our king; thank God. Here's the one we can

trust with our lives; for as he shows on the cross; what he wants is life for us, as we live loved by Father, becoming all that he has dreamed possible. And in his power and authority its not a pipe-dream, but it is a living reality. In Jesus you are Father's child, whom he loves, with you he is well pleased, in fact he delights in you.

I love living with Jesus as my king, in my own power and authority I get nowhere close to this wonderful life, his amazing future. Outside of Jesus I don't know if I'm loved, I seek it from you, I drain it from my position, I grasp at it hoping to find accolades but all the time doubting, not knowing, fearful of being abandoned. All the time feeling deep in

my heart, I don't have what it takes to be king. If nothing else death shatters our illusions of being capable.

I thank Father, he sent Jesus to be our king, so that we can live in his power and authority, knowing without a shadow doubt that we are loved, that we are significant, that our life is worthwhile, that we are never abandoned. Each time I focus on Jesus coronation I'm reassured that he is the one I can trust with my life.

I pray that we all live letting Jesus be king; listening to his voice, that in our live his will is done and his kingdom comes, and liberation is found for all.

25 March 2018

LONG LIVE THE KING

Mark 11:1-11



Each year we celebrate Palm Sunday, where Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Why do you think we celebrate Palm Sunday?

We celebrate that Jesus rides into Jerusalem as king; so what does that mean for you, for us, today? We all should ride donkeys. Does this event really have anything to do with life today?

The people shout and celebrate; what were they shouting? "Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in the highest heaven." (Mark 1:10) What does this mean?

I live in a world where the only king people what is themselves. We live in what we call a democracy; which is great because if you

don't like the government in theory you can kick them out.

With a king that's not the case. The press condemns nations which have a single head of state who rules the roost. We hold up democracy as the pinnacle of civilized rule. We even try and decide everything in the church by a democratic process; we vote.

We vote, sometimes I wonder if our practice and our theory are worlds apart. With a king, what the press labels as a dictator, what he says goes, like it or not. What happens to those who chose to oppose a dictator?

We have been brought up to believe a dictator is a bad thing; we the people should decide. Dictators are bad, democracy is good. Who'd believe this to be

true? Dictators are bad, democracy is good.

Today we celebrate Jesus riding into Jerusalem; that's the capital city. Jesus is riding into the capital city to be crowned what? To be crowned a dictator! Today we are celebrating Jesus riding into the capital city because in a few days time he's going to be crowned king.

Who likes being told what to do? Who likes having to toe the line, simply because that's what someone else has deemed it to be the way to go? Who wants to be able to do their own thing? Who wants to have the independence to decide for themselves?

Why do we celebrate Jesus riding into the capital city to be crowned a dictator; I think that's what a king

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

is. He dictates what will happen. And what he says goes; like it or not.

Of course in history most, if not all dictatorships have left a bad taste in people's mouths because of the person in that position. They have abused the position to simply get for themselves. Do you think that's how Jesus seeks to rule; simply getting what he wants for himself?

Maybe in one way it is; for what does Jesus want? What does our dictator want? What does our king want?

Not democracy, because all the people can be wrong, all the time!

What does Jesus want? What does our king, our dictator want?

Have you noticed how people don't like the Ten Commandments because they say 'don't do this'. I've seen plenty of attempts at re-writing them in the positive; you can do

this. Actually that's what the United Nations do with their bills of rites; you're allowed to do this and this and this and no-one can stop you. You're free.

Why is 'You're free', meaning you're free to do what you want sound so appealing to people? And being told you can't do it sounds

Who likes being told what to do?

so oppressive, restricting my freedoms. Why do you think that is the case?

Could it have anything to do with Adam and Eve, who didn't want God telling them what to do? They weighed things up and then did their own thing; after all they were intelligent people, who should have had the right to make their own decision.

Have you ever noticed how people ark up when it comes to the

idea of 'judgement'? You can't judge me. When I listen to some people I begin to get the impression that judging another person is probably the worst sin of all. We're not allowed to judge. Why do you think people respond so strongly to the idea of being judged by another?

Guess what is going to happen when Jesus returns? You guessed it, he's going to judge you, and what he says

will go, like it or not. He's the king, the one with the final say. So people would label him as a 'dictator' and accuse him of violating their rights. How dare he!

But when Jesus returns, how many people has he said he's going to judge? In the creed we say; 'the living and the dead', which doesn't leave anyone out.

But Jesus' rule isn't just some future event. Jesus claims to be the

king, right now. Especially in what he calls the 'Kingdom of God'.

Notice its not the 'Democracy of God' where we all get a vote on how things go, and if we don't like it we can always vote in a new god!

Jesus rode into the capital city to the shouts of; 'the coming Kingdom of or ancestor David'. Jesus rides in to be crowned king, not prime minister, not a constitutional monarchy, not a president in a democracy, but the king who rules by divine right.

We have a KINGdom. And a KINGdom is ruled by a King. And in a KINGdom, what the King says is law, is absolute. The King rules.

But I don't like being told what to do!

Jesus rode into the capital city to be crowned king, that he

might rule his kingdom today. Which is why he issues commands, which apply to me today.

Notice it is the 'New Commandment'. It's a command, which to people who don't want a king, because they want to do their own thing; this sounds terrible. How dare you

We have a KINGdom, where the King rules by divine right.

tell me what to do? You can't command love. Have you ever heard that?

We miss the power of what Jesus is say; for the command comes backed by who's power and authority. The king's power and authority lies behind his command, which means it is his power and authority which empowers action.

If I'm living from my own power and authority, how well will I love people? Especially

when I'm not sure I'm liked let alone loved. All my insecurities come rushing in; I compare myself and others who do it better. Does anyone see a problem if I'm to live from my own power and authority?

You know what, I'm more than happy to live from Jesus' power and authority. I'm more than happy to live under his command, because what every he commands me to do, he empowers

me to do. All of a sudden Jesus commanding me to love as I am loved by him becomes the ultimate freedom. I live from his power and authority.

If I'm living from Jesus' power and authority what will I be able to do? How does that compare to me living from my own power and authority?

I know which one I'm going for; living under Jesus as my king. I trust him far more than I trust myself, or even