

taking from the subjects. Who ends up out of pocket? Who ends up wealthy, making war at our expense?

Thank God, Jesus, our king doesn't rule at our expense; he's paid it all personally. In Jesus kingdom he empowers us, he fills us with the Spirit, he liberates, he loves beyond measure. All at his expense, so we might benefit, beyond our wildest dreams.

I invite you now to take time to pray; first take time to invite Jesus to rule as king. Talk with him about where you feel you need to say sorry and trust him.

Second, invite Jesus, your king, to share with you what's on his heart that you might be walking in harmony with him, living life according to all he's

made, dreamed possible.. Listen, grab the first thought, share it, respond to what Jesus says; his impression, thought, feeling, image, name, desire, fear.

Thirdly ask if there is anyone who would like to be prayed for. Then ask Jesus what he has to say to them and share those first thoughts, impressions, feelings, images, names, desires, colours, smells that you get. Share with the person you are

praying for without trying to explain them; after all Jesus is talking to them not you, you don't have to understand it.

Take your time; isn't it wonderful none of us have got anything else to rush off to!!!

Invite Jesus your king to send the Spirit that you go out living this week in his power and authority, declaring his kingdom where ever you go, bringing his hope, life and love; bringing his presence.

5 April 2020
**GROWING IN MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS—6**

Palm Sunday—Matthew 21:1-11

Today we traditionally celebrate what has become known as 'Palm Sunday'. Here Jesus allows us to see who he is as he seeks to remove the veil that would obscure him.

When you hear the word 'King' what immediately comes to your mind. Give yourself a few moments to jot down the images and thoughts that come to your mind.

I'm not sure what came to you, my first thought was of an article I'd just read. The Thai King is in self-isolation in an Alpine hotel with a harem of 20 women amid the pandemic!

Who's paying the bill I wonder?

Let's look at Jesus words when he began his ministry. I invite you to look up Mark

1:15 and jot down what Jesus proclaimed.

Jesus proclaimed 'The Kingdom of God has come at last!' he announced. 'The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!'

Jesus is proclaiming the beginning of a new world order; and he's at the centre. He's the one driving the agenda. To proclaim 'Good News' is to proclaim a new kingdom. The land was ruled by a certain king, but no longer, there is now a new king. He rules. He's in charge. He determines his social order.

Is that what you hear when hear the phrase 'Good News'; the declaration of a new king, claiming that he now rules. Rules his way.

For a new king to take over, what usually has to happen? World history is full of kings going to war, seeking to exert their will. Take a few moments to think about what usually happens when kings go to war. Who pays? Who benefits? What's the cost of war? Take a moment to reflect and jot your thoughts down.

Jesus declares 'The Kingdom of God' his kingdom. Jesus has declared war, for there already is a king who claims the throne and doesn't want to shift, or many, who claim the desire to be king.

What is the inevitable outcome when you have more than one king who claims sovereignty? WAR!

The COVID-19 virus almost feels like a king come to take control.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Come to take control using a well tried method; fear!!!

Fear, intimidation, scare mongering, all good weapons of war. All good weapons to take control. The fear of death, of disease, is gripping people, is controlling people. What does fear bring?

Does Jesus use fear as a weapon to take control and rule. I invite you to jot down your thoughts.

These words are spoken in prophecy about Jesus. In Luke we read; "You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace." (Luke 1:77-79)

Notice 'the shadow of death' is contrasted with 'the path of peace'.

It certain feels like the COVID-19 virus leaves me in 'the shadow of death'. Fear seeks to reign; to control, to shape how we live.

Of course the contrast is with Jesus; 'the path of peace'. I love the understanding of the Hebrew word for 'Peace' which is

The world is made up of competing 'kings'

'Fullness of life in God'.
One thing I know, fear can never create fullness of life. It inhibits, twists, cripples, distorts, steals, destroys, never producing fullness of life. If I'm scared stiff, I don't have fullness of life.

Thank God, he comes that you might have fullness of life with him, in him, through him. Thank God, in Jesus, he has come that you might have a

rich and satisfying life (John 10:10 NLT).

Of course COVID-19 isn't the one opposing Jesus. Who would you say is the king opposing Jesus? I invite you to jot down who you think Jesus has come to overthrow so that he might set up the 'Kingdom of God'.

Did you think of the Devil, that great liar and deceiver? The Devil, lied and deceived Adam and Eve, stealing their position of ruler. God had

placed Adam and Eve to care for his creation; in other words to rule over it. Through his lies and deceit the Devil claims the right to rule. Jesus certainly has come to overthrow this liar and cheat.

Maybe the king that is more of a problem is me, is you! Adam and Eve reject God's rule over their lives and seek to do it their way. The way they act is saying; 'What does God know? Why shouldn't they decide for themselves? Why

not eat the fruit God said to leave alone; don't they deserve the wisdom it offers?'

I think the opposing king who might be the hardest to remove is me! I think we all want to be in charge of our own lives. I want to call the shots doing what I feel is best for me. If you don't believe me just try telling someone what they have to do, if they don't agree with you. I think you'll find you'll have a fight on your hands.

I've heard lots of phrases like: 'It's my life, you can't tell me what to do'. 'If it feels right, I'll do it'. Every time I hear this song I cringe: 'I did it my way'. I hate the phrase, 'After all you deserve it'.

God certainly has revealed that the world is made up of competing 'kings'. Admittedly some are better at it than others; but that rebel spirit is innate in all of us.

Jesus certainly has a difficult, almost seemingly impossible task. How does he come and rule as king? How does he make war but not kill us? That's the traditional way of doing things; killing the opposing king. What a dilemma, especially seeing Jesus desire is to love the opposing king, to free them for

In whose power and authority are you seeking to find life?

life, life lives beyond their wildest dreams.
Today I thank God that Jesus road into Jerusalem, on a donkey, to be my king. The king who would liberate me from my slavery; slavery to my fears, to my greed, to my desire to control others getting my own way. Today I thank God that Jesus has come to kill the rebel in me, through forgiveness, through offering his life, that I might find life in him.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem as KING of kings. He rides in ready to put his life on the line, to fight for you, so that you might be liberated and discover life in him beyond your wildest dreams.

I'll be forever grateful that Jesus has killed the rebel in me, so that I might live joyfully in his kingdom as one of his legal citizens of heaven. Now finding life in his power and authority.

Ultimately that's what we're talking about; in whose power and authority are you seeking to find life?

I'm only too happy to admit I don't have the power or the authority needed to rule my life, let alone the world. I'm joyful having Jesus as king, living by his power and authority. Jesus is able to do what he promises; all without oppressing me to get what he wants.

Isn't that how our earth's story goes, the king gets his wealth by