

*Meditative Evening Prayer
Wednesday 28 October 2020*

The Mystery of Christ

Welcome

Entering into prayer

Hymn: 'The servant King'

Verse 1 From heav'n You came, helpless Babe entered our world, your glory veiled; not to be served but to serve and give Your life that we might live

Chorus This is our God, the Servant King he calls us now to follow Him to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King

Verse2 There in the garden of tears my heavy load he chose to bear; His heart with sorrow was torn yet not my will but Yours,' he said

Verse 3 Come see His hands and His feet the scars that speak of sacrifice; hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered

Verse 4 So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him; each other's needs to prefer For it is Christ we're serving

Reading: Philippians 2:6-11, New Living Translation

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A few thoughts followed by a time of silent prayer and reflection

A time of intercessions with the hymn 'For the Healing of the nations'

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing of the things
that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness

fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

**Intercessory prayers in silence or aloud to entrust
to God our concerns about people and situations in
our world**

The Lord's prayer *said together*

Concluding Prayer

Christ, Lord of all, you did not hold to your equality with
God and lived our human life, being obedient and
attuned to God even in your death. Your death was a
criminal's although your life was holy. We welcome you
in our nights and our days, in the beauty of creation, in
the hours of intense struggle, in our world, welcoming
you means knowing that you are with us in every
situation, in every human event, always. (inspired by
Philippians 2, 6-11 and a prayer of brother Roger)

Blessing

May we be aware of God and of Christ in the cosmos,
in others, on our earth, in the land and in the cities and
in ourselves.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us to become more and
more human and in the likeness of Christ, may we live
our lives more and more to the full and may
Christ be the Lord of time, space, our lives and our
world- our common home. AMEN.

Taize chants:

Tz The Lord is my light, the Lord is my praise: all my
hope comes from God: the Lord is my light, the Lord is
my praise: God, the wellspring of life

Tz Lord of all goodness, Son of the Father, may your
peace surround us.

Tz Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,
night will soon fall. Then stay with us,
O Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness.'

Tz 'Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ.
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our Saviour.'

**The next Meditative Evening Prayer will be on
Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 7.30pm**