



23 NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome to worship this morning,
we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 23 November, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Next week 30 November, 2025

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Christmas is Coming!

We are still collecting Christmas treats, such as chocolates, shortbreads, puddings etc. for our Hands & Feet clients to go into their baskets on 17th December.

There is a box at the back of the church for your donations which we will be collecting until Sunday 14 December.

Manse Update

We now have tenants in the manse, so please respect their privacy and space if you are using the back driveway.

Diary dates

Sunday 30th November: Breakfast Communion and an interactive, all age service to kick off the season of Advent.

Our four Advent themes will be Walking in the Light of the Lord, A Leopard can Change its Spots, A Joyful Transformation and Do You Trust Me?

All of these services will include all-age participation and activities.

Saturday 6th December: Church Christmas Afternoon Tea at 2:30 pm. More details to follow.

Wednesday 17th December: Hands and Feet Christmas morning tea for all our wonderful clients. More details to follow.

Thursday 18th December: Blue Christmas Service 7pm in the chapel. A quiet reflective service for anyone who has experienced loss.

Thursday 25th December: 9am as usual. A morning of worship, fun and celebration.



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Jesus the King versus Caesar Augustus

One was born in humble surroundings, the other born in a luxurious palace.

This Sunday we will celebrate and worship Jesus as the world's supreme and true King. At the time of Jesus' humble birth however another king ruled the world, the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus. Caesar was the grand-nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar, who after his assassination became deified. Julius was declared divine, partly due to the sentiment of the people but also because a comet had been seen shooting across the sky at the time of his death.

Both were known as peace bringers and the son of god.

Due to Julius being declared divine, Caesar Augustus became known across the world as the son of god. All the people of the empire had to bow down to him and surrender to his will because resistance was met with violence and bloodshed. In contrast, Jesus asks us to follow him, we are invited not forced or coerced to surrender our will to his. Jesus does not demand our submission by threatening us with violence rather he wins our devotion through God's Spirit of love and truth.

One conquered the world through nonviolence, liberation and compassion, the other through armies, weapons and domination. Both shed blood, one upon the cross in self-surrender to save the world, the other through warfare to possess the world.

Caesar Augustus brought a false state of peace, the *pax romana* to the world through domination and violence. A human, mortal leader like Caesar Augustus can only play the short game, essentially saying, "what can I do to change the world within my lifetime, to bring glory and honour to my name?" Jesus as God's only true son plays the long game. Jesus willingly died an inglorious death to bring honour to God's holy name so that in the end all things will be reconciled.

One is still known and worshipped throughout the world, the other is now commonly referred to as a type of salad dressing.

A message from our King, Prince of Peace.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)