



Collective worship resources for schools

Phase: Primary



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Christian service – how does faith inspire a heart for others and the world?

The concept of the 'Kingdom of God' is a key idea within Christianity. Although diverse views about the Kingdom of God exist, all centre around how Christians are inspired and empowered by Jesus' teaching and example to act for the flourishing of all creation. Those following Jesus commit to what they want 'to be' and 'to do', in order 'to shine as a light' in the world around them.

This act of collective worship draws on this concept of the Kingdom of God to help pupils understand the symbolic religious ceremony of the coronation. After exploring this concept through Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, attention turns to the six important stages of the coronation service. In each stage, King Charles and others commit to following Jesus' teaching and example to let their 'light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5: 16).

This act of worship aims to help pupils make sense of the coronation service – its language, meaning and symbolism – as well as providing an invitation for them to consider how they might contribute to the flourishing of the communities they belong to in their own lives. There is also an opportunity to pray for the King as he prepares for his coronation.

As we prepare for the coronation of King Charles III, how can we shine as lights in the communities we serve? What is on our 'to do' and 'to be' list?



Bible story

Matthew 5: 14-16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(New International Version)



Quote from King's Christmas Message (2022)

In the much-loved carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” we sing of how “in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.” My mother’s belief in the power of that light was an essential part of her faith in God, but also her faith in people – and it is one which I share with my whole heart. It is a belief in the extraordinary ability of each person to touch, with goodness and compassion, the lives of others, and to shine a light in the world around them. This is the essence of our community and the very foundation of our society.

Gathering

Follow the school's normal gathering routines, using words of liturgy which are familiar to students and adults

or

Light a candle and offer the following prayer: **‘The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you’.**

Response: **and also with you.**

Invite the school community to reflect on the following questions (individually or through a strategy such as think-pair-share):

- I wonder what you think of when you hear the word ‘king’?
- What do you think it means to be a ‘good’ king?

Invite thoughts from the school community. If you’d like to, capture some of these ideas in writing at the front (e.g. on a flipchart or whiteboard) to refer back to later in the act of collective worship. If applicable, note how some ideas link to what a king should ‘do’ and ‘be’.





Engagement

Christians around the world look to Jesus to help shape how they live their lives. Indeed, the bible describes how Jesus spent a lot of time with his disciples and others. Through his teaching and example, he demonstrated to his disciples how each of them could and should love themselves, others, the world and God.

Not long after Jesus had first started to preach and teach, a large crowd followed him and his disciples. He moved to higher ground, sat with them and shared what are commonly referred to as the 'Beatitudes' (from the Latin for 'blessings'). Within these, Jesus stated:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...

Blessed are the merciful...

Blessed are the pure in heart...

Blessed are the peacemakers...

(Matthew 5: 6-9 – New International Version)

Invite the school community to reflect and respond to the following question:

I wonder, why do you think Jesus wanted to share these words with those who were with him?

Jesus was inviting those with him to think not only of their 'to do' list, but also their 'to be' list: *be merciful; be pure in heart; be a peacemaker, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.*

Shortly after, Jesus shared more reflections as they sat together:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine before others**, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5: 14-16 – New International Version) [if you'd like to, why not show this visually with a light and a bowl to conceal it?]



Jesus set the disciples a mission – to shine brightly in the world. This is a call which inspired the very first disciples and continues to inspire billions of Christians across the world today. Christians believe that all have a key part to play in creating a world where all can flourish – all life, not just humanity; this is God's wish. A clear 'to do' list and a 'to be' list.

On Saturday 6th May, King Charles III will be crowned. The Coronation is a symbolic religious service which, for over 900 years, has taken place at Westminster Abbey. The service is led by the Archbishop of Canterbury (the most senior bishop in the Church of England). Through the service, the new monarch expresses what they would like to 'do' and 'be' as they rule; it also provides an opportunity for those gathered in the Abbey (and also those watching across the world on TV) to commit their support to the King or Queen.



As well as being the Head of State of the United Kingdom and 14 other countries, King Charles is also the Head of the Commonwealth. This is a voluntary organisation of 54 independent and equal countries across the world. These countries work together towards common goals and values. Some of the flags of member countries are shown on the slide.

There are **six** main stages of the Coronation. These are:

The recognition

King Charles will be presented to those gathered in the Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The congregation will shout 'God save King Charles!' and trumpets will sound.



The oath

The King will then make a Coronation Oath. The exact words of this promise – to people and to God – has changed over the centuries. Queen Elizabeth II swore to rule with justice and mercy.



Reflective question

I wonder what you commit to doing in your words and actions?

The anointing

After the oath, the King sits in the Coronation Chair. The Archbishop of Canterbury will anoint (apply holy oil, made from a secret recipe, to Charles' hands, chest and head) and bless him as he leads as King. This anointing with oil goes back to the practices described in the Old Testament of setting something apart as special for God's purposes. A gold cloth has traditionally been held over and around the chair to conceal this sacred event.



Reflective question

Why do you think the anointing has been done privately?

The investiture

Next, the monarch is presented with several items – some with Christian symbolism. These include:

- The Sovereign's Orb – the orb represents the world and the cross above it shows the Christian belief that the world is God's. It is placed in the King's right hand as a reminder to make a positive difference in God's creation.
- The Sovereign's Sceptre – one of two sceptres given. This also holds a cross on the top, and represents the power, and responsibility, of the King to rule justly and mercifully in the eyes of God.



After receiving the orb and sceptres, St Edward's Crown is placed on the King's head by the Archbishop. It is a closed crown with arches which form a cross above the monarch's head.

Reflective question

Why do you think these symbols are so important to the King?



The enthronement and homage

King Charles III will then move from the Coronation Chair to the throne. Those gathered will kneel before the sovereign to pay respect and special honour to the King.



We can see within the Coronation the ways in which the King will express the ways he wishes to follow Jesus' teaching and example as given in the Beatitudes: *be merciful; be pure in heart; be a peacemaker, and hunger and thirst for righteousness*. Through the Coronation, the King will express what he wants 'to do' and who he wants 'to be' as he rules.

Response

King Charles III draws inspiration from Jesus' teaching and example. We can see this in his Christmas Message last year, where he shared the following reflection:



*In the much-loved carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" we sing of how "in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light." My mother's belief in the power of that light was an essential part of her faith in God, but also her faith in people – and it is one which I share with my whole heart. **It is a belief in the extraordinary ability of each person to touch, with goodness and compassion, the lives of others, and to shine a light in the world around them.** This is the essence of our community and the very foundation of our society.*

...the power of light overcoming darkness is celebrated across the boundaries of faith and belief. So, whatever faith you have, or whether you have none, it is in this life-giving light, and with the true humility that lies in our service to others, that I believe we can find hope for the future.

As well as being important for the King, the Coronation offers an opportunity for us to reflect on our own 'to be' and 'to do' list.

I wonder what you would put on your list? Is there anything you feel called 'to be'? A few ideas are shown on the PowerPoint slide; there may be other ideas that you would add to your list.

I wonder why you have chosen these? How might they help you (and us as a school community) 'shine as a light' in the world?

To be:

A peacemaker?

Pure in heart?

Loving?

Wise?

Something else?

Courageous?

Merciful?

Hungry and thirsty for righteousness?

Patient?





Invite the school community, if they would like to, to join you in offering a prayer to God for the upcoming Coronation. You might like to use the following language:

I invite you to join with me in a prayer. For Christians, prayer is talking to God, who they believe listens and hears their prayers. If you want to make this prayer your own, then please join me in saying, 'Amen'.

Dear God,

We thank you for your teaching and example through Jesus.

We pray for the King as he prepares for his Coronation.

May you help him to be a peacemaker, pure in heart, merciful and hungry for righteousness.

We pray that you will also help us to shine brightly in the world around us, and 'be' who you have called us to be

as we all work together for a hopeful future in which all creation can flourish.

Amen.

Sending

We've thought deeply in this act of worship on what is on the King's – and our – to do and be list.

Invite the school community to continue thinking over the Coronation weekend:

- How can we play our part in creating the kind of world God wants alongside the King?
- How can we all 'touch the world with goodness and compassion' today and beyond?



Spiritual development

Practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Emblem creation

A special emblem has been designed especially for the occasion of King Charles III's Coronation (<https://www.royal.uk/coronation-emblem>).

Invite pupils to look closely at the emblem: what do they notice? What symbols and objects do they see? After some time looking closely, share with them the rationale of the emblem:

The emblem pays tribute to The King's love of the natural world, unifying the flora of the four nations of the United Kingdom; the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, the daffodil of Wales and the shamrock of Northern Ireland. Together, the flowers create the shape of St Edward's Crown, with which His Majesty The King will be crowned during the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, 6th May. The emblem has been designed using the red, white and blue of the union flag.

Throughout his life, King Charles III has placed great importance on the responsibility of us all to show a heart for the earth in all we do. Why do you think the Coronation emblem has been designed in this way? What might it tell us about King Charles III and his vision for a hopeful future?



You might invite students to create an emblem for themselves. This emblem would demonstrate something that they have a real heart for – something they feel is key when envisioning a hopeful future for humans and/or the earth.

- What would they like to include on their emblem?
- What might it look like?
- What message would they want viewers to take away when looking at their emblem?



Origami crown

In the act of collective worship above, pupils considered Jesus' teaching that all can contribute to the Kingdom of God through their thinking and actions. To extend pupils' spiritual reflection here, why not invite pupils to decorate and/or annotate a paper crown? Pupils could add/draw 'jewels' which represent what is on their 'to do' and 'to be' list. Reflect with students how they might use these personal 'jewels' to shine brightly within the communities within the United Kingdom and beyond of which they are a part?



This Little Light of Mine

Song is a tremendous way in which many access and express their spirituality. It provides a rich opportunity to connect and reflect both individually and as a school community. With this in mind, you might like to invite pupils to watch and listen to the following version of 'This Little Light of Mine'. As they listen, pupils could reflect upon how they and others could shine brightly this week.

https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=cKkblZtqhyQ

If a version of this song is known to pupils, why not follow the act of collective worship above with the opportunity to express the commitment 'to shine as lights in the world' through song?



Our King

The song 'Our King' has been written by Nick and Becky Drake at Worship for Everyone, especially for the Coronation of King Charles III. It features children from a Church of England School singing on the track.

https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=JclAZd8p5fQ

Schools can use this lyric video. A resource pack, including backing track and sheet music is also available from

<https://worshipforeveryone.com/product/our-king-resource-pack>

OUR KING

Verse 1

It's a day of celebration
For our country's coronation
From every corner of the nation
We'll celebrate our King!

Verse 2

It's a day to come together
It's a day we'll all remember
From every corner of the nation
We'll celebrate our King

Chorus

Together we sing
God save the King!
May he have wisdom every day
In every decision that he makes
Together we sing
God save the King!
From every street and every town
All of our voices will sing out
God save the King!

Verse 3

It's a day of jubilation
As we mark this great occasion
From every corner of the nation
We'll celebrate our King

Verse 4

So we're praying for a blessing
May he grow to be a great King
As he serves us God be with him
Now and every day

Bridge

God bless the King
Long live the King
Oh let us sing!
God bless this coronation day

(C) 2023 WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE. CCLI 7215038
WRITERS: BECKY DRAKE, NICK DRAKE, ALEX HART.
SONGSFORSCHOOL.COM



Messy Church materials

A range of commendable activities for reflection on the Coronation can be found here for use at home. Some will also be appropriate to amend and use as part of class-based collective worship in school (see page 10 for principles of collective worship in Church of England schools): <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/Messy%20Church%20Coronation%20session.pdf>

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Examen

Use the EXAMEN prayer to reflect on one's 'to do' and 'to be' list. It has five steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for the opportunity to make such a positive difference in the world
2. ASK FOR HELP to notice times where you can show goodness and compassion to others and the world around you
3. REFLECT on your day and think about times you have been able to 'shine as a light' so far
4. SAY SORRY for the times you haven't always shown goodness or compassion
5. DECIDE how you will 'shine as a light' in the world going forward

To discover more about using the Ignatian Examen with children, listen to this [podcast](#).

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES

“

[I SHARE A BELIEF] IN THE EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY OF EACH PERSON TO TOUCH, WITH GOODNESS AND COMPASSION, THE LIVES OF OTHERS, AND TO SHINE A LIGHT IN THE WORLD AROUND THEM. THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THE VERY FOUNDATION OF OUR SOCIETY.

”

King Charles III
(Christmas Message 2022)

Through his role as a royal, King Charles III has demonstrated a real heart for the earth and the opportunities available for young people (for example, <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust>).

- What do you think are the most pressing issues in the world today?
- In what ways could/should/must we 'shine as lights in the world' for a hopeful future?
- How useful do you think it is to have a 'to be' list as well as a 'to do' list?
- How could we work together as a United Kingdom, Commonwealth and more widely as humankind to bring about a hopeful future?
- What does Jesus call 'to shine as a light in the world' mean to you?

FURTHER RESOURCES

This resource pack is part of a wide range of resources that have been created by the Church of England to help people pray, create, encounter, and mark the Coronation in their own setting. For further information please visit:

www.churchofengland.org/coronation



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

 Twitter @churchofengland

 Instagram @thechurchofengland

 Facebook @thechurchofengland

 YouTube @thechurchofengland

 TikTok @thechurchofengland

churchofengland.org/coronation