



Collective worship resources for schools

Phase: Secondary



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



A servant King serving the servant Jesus

The concept of 'Service' is not one that is specific to schools or to faith-based institutions. We see it mentioned in vision statements and straplines, and we value good customer service across sectors – charitable, corporate, faith-based and other product and service providers.

Yet the principle of *service* is dwarfed by the symbolism and depth of significance in a very similar – but considerably different word – *servanthood*. A self-sacrificial, all encompassing pouring out of our time, heart and energy so that other might benefit. Ultimately Jesus is our ultimate example of servanthood, as a King who came not to *be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many* (Mark 10:45) – willing to wash His disciples' feet, providing food to crowds, making breakfast for exhausted fishermen and through all this demonstrating the nature of Godly Kingship and the nature of the Kingdom of God. A King, but a servant King. This is the model upon which King Charles stands.

This act of Collective Worship seeks to explore particularly the six stages of the King Charles' coronation service. Whilst heavy with tradition and symbolism, their ultimate aim being to point towards the ultimate King Jesus and the *life in all its fullness* available as we do things God's way and participate in His Kingdom now.



Bible story

Matthew 20: 25-27

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
(New International Version)

In this story we see James and John's Mother asking a special (and perhaps slightly cheeky) favour of Jesus. She asks that her two sons, when they enter Jesus' Kingdom, to sit in the best seats – one to Jesus' left and one to Jesus' right. In effect she was saying that at the 'top table', her sons get the place of the most privilege and prestige. A place of ruling and reigning and a place of power.

Perhaps it's understandable – she's a Mum who wants the best for her two sons!

Yet Jesus' response shows that a King is not what she thinks and that the Kingdom of God is upside down in this element. Yes, a King has power and authority. Yet ultimately his place is to serve and to provide for others. It is all-encompassing, self-sacrificial and hard. We will see this as we step through the coronation service.

Gathering

If you have words of liturgy or ritual that you use as a school in your Collective Worship, lighting of candles or use of music please use these to create the space and intention towards worship and a quietness of mind and heart to receive and consider.

You might like to listen to the song 'The Servant King' by Graham Kendrick and ask the students to look at the words of the lyric video below.

The Servant King (We Give Our Lives) – Graham Kendrick with Rend Collective – Lyric Video

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

Engagement

Just a Minute!

To get us thinking about the topic, we're going to play a game of Just a Minute! This is a well-known BBC comedy show that is over forty years old and can be played in small groups, up to a whole class.

Every one sit in front of an imaginary buzzer and be ready to push and make a buzzing noise. Have a timer either on the screen or a clock nearby.

Willing contestants have to speak for a minute without hesitating, deviating from the subject, or repeating themselves. If anybody heard a hesitation, deviation or repetition they must loudly press their buzzer and the next person has a try.

The topic is KINGS.. go!



A Different Kind of King – Bible Study

Read Matthew 20:20-28 in 2 versions of the Bible. You might like to use any literacy/reading strategies appropriate to your school for example choral reading, 'jump in', 1 verse each, guided reading or listening to a narrated version.

On sticky notes, mini whiteboards or paper, write the following 4 topics and encourage the young people to think about these as they read and listen. What do we learn about the role of a King? Is it all expensive holidays, people bowing down and the finery of royal palaces?

A Planned-out life of

- Privilege
- Power
- Pain

New International Version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+20%3A20-28&version=NIV>

The Message Version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+20%3A20-28&version=MSG>

Feed back and summarise what we learn about the role of a King from the bible passage. It is indeed a place of privilege and power! He rightly sits at the 'top table' of Government, and has a position of profound influence under God and His Kingdom. But there is also pain. His life is no longer His and never has been.

His role is all encompassing and as such he can never get away from it – just as Jesus said he had to bear this 'cup' (referring to the death He was to die on the cross) and how others cannot fully understand or bear that, similarly the King is in a position where He will need to take difficult decisions and ultimately we cannot understand that fully, just be willing to be under His authority in this.

In the light of the passages and discussion, discuss as a group

- Would you want to be King or Queen and why?



The King's Coronation

Deeply Theologically Symbolic Event

On Saturday 6th May, King Charles III will be crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, as have 39 other Monarchs over 900 years.

The service this time will be led by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and will be a state event. This means that the Government are involved in choosing who will attend. It will include the Royal Family, the Prime Minister, representatives from the House of Parliament, Heads of State, and Royal Family from around the world.

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.

The Coronation has six main stages and we will look at the significance of these and use them to reflect upon ourselves. These are:

The Recognition

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

Spiritual Significance

Right from the start of the service it is recognised that the King is under the authority of God. Trumpets in the Bible are used at significant festivals, to call people to gather, or to assemble for battle.

Question for me

Whose authority do I fall under? Think widely. Am I happy under their authority? Do I make their job an easy or a difficult one?

The Oath

The King will make a Coronation Oath. An oath is a serious promise, witnessed by others. Over the years the words have changed but always include promises to lead well, and promises to God to do this as well as he can.

King Charles will place his hand on the Holy Bible and will say, "The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So, help me God." The King will then sign the oath, promising to serve God, the people and rule according to the law.

Spiritual Significance

The Bible details many promises made between God and people (covenants). Some of these are private, however they always have a significance for the wider community. For example, the Abrahamic Covenant where God promised to provide protection and land for Abraham and God's people, if they followed His path. The oath here is very public and the signing of an oath to serve people is only seen at the Coronation service and nowhere else.

A Question for me

When I make a promise, do I make them seriously and with the right heart? Am I a person of integrity in my words and actions?



The Anointing

The King, sat in the Coronation Chair, will be anointed with Chrism oil by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This means that oil is used to make the shape of a cross upon King Charles' head, chest and hands. The oil is very special and holy, being made from olives from Jerusalem and infused with spices and perfumes.

Being anointed with oil blesses and sets the King apart for his role. It's a very personal and private moment and is usually done under a special cloth canopy as the anointing is a special moment between the King and God.

Spiritual Significance

We see anointing with oil in the Old Testament of the Bible, when people are 'set apart' by God for a particular task. This is a sacramental act and an important and powerful moment that has similarities with when Christians are baptised, confirmed or ordained.

A Question for me

Considering my gifts, talents and abilities, how am I 'set aside' by God? What are my spheres of influence and places where only I can make a difference?

The Investiture

The monarch is presented with several items. There are many items and you may have already seen them if you saw Queen Elizabeth II's funeral procession. They include:

The Sovereign's Orb

The Orb is a golden ball with a cross on the top, that the King hold in his right hand. It is shaped as an orb to represent the world and shows that the King has power, influence and responsibility over the world.

The Sovereign's Sceptre

This is a golden staff/rod with a cross on the top and represents responsibility and power. A rod is used by shepherd who guide sheep, and Moses has a staff as a shepherd and also to guide God's people.

St. Edwards Crown

The Archbishop of Canterbury will place a crown on King Charles' head. The shape of the crown is like two arches and above the King's head they form a cross shape

Spiritual Significance

These three items all contain a cross. They all signify elements of the reign of a King – his power, influence and responsibility. Yet the cross – the most important symbol in Christianity – features on each. King Charles is not on his own in his power, influence and responsibility. Ultimately the earth is God's and God will help King Charles in his duties.

A question for me

If there was a symbol above my head, the most important thing in my life that shapes my intentions, my thoughts and my actions, what would it be?



The enthronement and homage

King Charles will then move from the Coronation Chair up some steps to the throne. People will kneel before him on the throne, swearing their allegiance to the King, and giving him honour and respect.

Spiritual Significance

Kneeling is a common act in Christianity and symbolises making ourselves low, so that God can be honoured and metaphorically lifted up. It symbolises coming under authority and humility.

A question for me

Who or what do I swear allegiance to? Is this a helpful thing and if not, perhaps ask God to help you shift perspective and priorities.

Response

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

As you read/ sing the words, consider your own heart response to everything we have looked at today. King Charles is not only a world leader, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and King, but he is OUR King too. At the Coronation he promises to serve us with all his heart and strength and as such we need an opportunity to respond to this. It's a day of celebration!

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

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WRITERS: BECKY DRAKE, NICK DRAKE, ALEX HART.
SONGSFORSCHOOL.COM

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



Prayerful Reflection

One student to read this, everyone to bow heads and close eyes as a mark of respect and focus.

We are going to spend a few minutes reflecting upon everything we have heard today. You are invited to join in our 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 in with saying 'Amen'.

Father God, thank You for King Charles. For his life and service to this day and going forwards from his coronation as King.

Thank You that you know him inside and out and say that he is fearfully and wonderfully made. You created him, and us, with a purpose and You are the one who gives us good gifts and talents to be nourished and built up to serve and bless others.

Help him, by your Holy Spirit, to serve wholeheartedly and with joy. Help him to make good decisions and to guide and protect those he serves.

As we have thought about his coronation and all that this signifies, help us to recognise our own gifts, calls upon our lives and our spheres of influence. Might we always be seeking the good of not only ourselves but those around us, and might we have servant hearts, like Jesus, so that we think of the others' needs, amplify the voices of those weakest in society, and see the Kingdom of God lived out in our every day.

We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Sending

The BIG Servanthood Plan!

As a group together, make a plan how you are going to put the following principles from the coronation service into action the rest of this academic year to directly serve your school community – students, staff and immediate geographical area around the school.

You might like to draw a big mind map on the board or on a roll of paper rolled out across the floor of the room

The Recognition	Ideas how we will intentionally recognise the gifts in others
The Oath	Write a group promise on how you will serve your school and one another
The Anointing	Set aside each member of your class for a special individual role
The Investiture	Listen out to what the cross/ Jesus has to say and view others like He does
The enthronement and homage	Think of ideas of how we can 'bow down' metaphorically so that others are lifted up. Design a project for social media, posters or billboards, or an assembly around an issue of injustice or power imbalance.



Spiritual development

Practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Design an Emblem

A special emblem has been designed for the Coronation which can be seen here <https://www.royal.uk/coronation-emblem>. Put this up as big as you can on a screen and print out on paper to annotate also.

Invite students to annotate the picture, having looked closely at the emblem: what do they notice? What symbols can they see and how do those relate to King Charles III?

After this, ask students to feed back to the class. Then reveal these elements

Flowers and plants of the four nations of the United Kingdom

The rose of England

The thistle of Scotland

The daffodil of Wales

The shamrock of Northern Ireland.

Together, the flowers create the shape of St Edward's Crown

Red, white and blue of the union flag.

If you have time, ask the students to create an emblem for themselves or their class. It needs to encompass all the most important elements to the individual or group in terms of what you have most passion about. Spend some time drawing these and then if you have several groups, pass the emblems around randomly and see if they can guess whose emblem is which groups.





Prayerspace Activities

Prayer spaces are areas, rooms or boards of rooms designed with interactive activities to enable young people to engage spiritually with a topic or theme. They typically contain element you can interact with for example a quiet comfy space to reflect, activities where you can write on walls, creative and artistic ways of engaging with God.

Go to <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/> for examples of prayer space activities on different topics. You do not need to have a whole room if space is short in your school. For the Kings' Coronation you might like to

- Draw the outline of the crown on a display board and encourage the young people to reflect upon the things that they feel the King needs. Then ask them to prayerfully write these inside the crown as an act of prayer – asking God for example to bless the King with humility, courage, sensitivity etc
- Make a basic bread dough using the following recipe and explain that over the course of the day, you will watch it rise as a class. Place it in a warm corner or by a radiator to help it rise and explain that the Kingdom of God is like yeast – it causes change through the whole dough. Doing things God's way impacts the whole community too creating something beautiful. If possible bake the bread and if safe, eat it together.
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/2060/easy-white-bread>
- Create a warm safe corner of your classroom or a social space, with rugs and blankets, soft low lighting and cushions. Encourage the young people to sit in and enjoy the space, and to see how it feels kneeling and closing your eyes. Is it comfortable or uncomfortable? Can you imagine kneeling in front of the King? How might this feel? Students with a faith may be able to offer perspectives to the class on kneeling as part of prayer or worship.

To get support on prayer spaces, see

<https://prayerspacesinschools.com/get-involved/local-support/>

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Examen

The examen is an Ignation prayer that is accessible and simple, and is directed into steps. It can be used in any situation to self-reflect and to ask for God's help and blessing. There are five steps so using a hand can be helpful, putting a finger down each time.

Use the EXAMEN prayer to reflect on how we can serve God and each other like Jesus.

1. GIVE THANKS for your social network, friends family and school
2. ASK FOR HELP to serve them wholeheartedly and well
3. REFLECT upon your day tomorrow and where the opportunities to serve others will be
4. SAY SORRY for the times you have become self-centred and not looked for the needs of others
5. DECIDE what your heart intention is going to be around servanthood going forwards



CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Do Something!

Watch this worship video 'Do Something' by Matthew West. It encourages us to not only identify needs around us, but to do something about them!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndGoIX8

After you have watched it as a group, consider your collective response in relation to your local community around the school. What needs to happen? What can you initiate?

The call upon King Charles' life is a practical one. Whilst it involves looking at policy and thinking of the needs of others, he is called to also practically demonstrate support, to uplift the weakest in society and to represent God in service to others.

Some starters to get them going might be

- A weekly litter pick of the streets around the school
- Writing to the local MP with suggestions around improving the local area for residents and businesses
- Writing cards to encourage the residents immediately near the school and dropping off cakes to them.

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?



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