



# 67B CHRIST THE KING B ONLINE LITURGY

Listen to my voice

## Abstract

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

John 18:37

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## GOSPEL

*John 18:33–37*

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

## 67B Christ the king B Online Liturgy

### Listen to my voice

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021 | AFTER PENTECOST | CHRIST THE KING OR REIGN OF CHRIST | PROPER 29 | YEAR B

*Old Testament & Psalm, Option I*

*Old Testament*     2 Samuel 23:1–7

*Psalm*                 Psalm 132:1–12 (13–18)

*or*

*Old Testament & Psalm, Option II*

*Old Testament*     Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

*Psalm*                 Psalm 93

*New Testament*    Revelation 1:4b–8

*Gospel*                 John 18:33–37<sup>2</sup>

These events take place in the morning after Jesus was arrested. He has been put on trial by the religious leaders, now he is brought before the Roman leader, Pilate. Jesus and Pilate's exchange reveals the vast difference between Pilate's understanding of kingship and authority and Jesus'. For Pilate this is about rules and power; for Jesus it is about truth and community. This is Jesus making it clear why he is here. He has come to make the truth known.

But, as Pilate asked, what is truth? This too means different things to different people – remember the Climate change discussions, or the US elections in 2020. We read in the New Testament that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life – if we truly believe that we need to learn to listen to his voice in all that we do, think or say.

This week we explore what it means to belong to the truth.

	<b>Pre-Service</b>
	<b>Introit</b> King of kings (Hillsong)
	<b>Greeting</b>  May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all  <b>and also with you</b>

<sup>2</sup> [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

## Introduction

- Imagine I'm trying to preach,  
Lyll here is trying to tell you about his best meal,  
Leonie is trying to give you instructions about a special lunch  
The rest of you are talking about last night's 'Survivor episode'  
no one is listening – no one can hear
- Now imagine only Lyll telling you about his best meal while I preach  
ok it's better, but still very hard
- Well finally everyone has shut up, and I am talking  
finally you can hear and concentrate.

In daily life crowd noise stops you listening well.  
So, if we want to listen to God  
something that is the focus of today's worship  
being quiet and concentrating and really listening helps us to hear.

This week we explore what it means to belong to hear the truth.

## We Gather

### Call to worship

We come today to acknowledge Christ as King.  
His throne is a cross, and he reigns from high heaven.  
Beauty and holiness are the marks of his kingdom.  
He is the face of God revealed in human form.  
Let us keep our eyes fixed on him:  
King Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### Acknowledgements

God created the lands we live on.  
The Wadawurrung people were its first inhabitants  
since time before remembering.  
You may well identify with another indigenous group.

We pay our respects to their elders and communities  
That continue to care for this land and its peoples.

We also pay our respects to those Second and Third generations peoples  
that have been part of our lives that similarly care.

Especially now we think of your carers and nurses here.

### A gathering prayer

God of gods and King of kings,  
be with us as we seek to know more of your truth.  
Speak to us by your Word and your Spirit.  
Help us to see Jesus, and to hear his voice –  
not just for today, but for all days,  
and for the glory of your kingdom.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

**A prayer of confession**

Lord our mighty God,  
     we have heard but not always listened to you:  
         with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.  
 We have seen need and closed our eyes to it:  
     with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.  
 We have closed our ears to cries for help:  
     with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.  
 We have known your truth and yet followed lies and falsehoods:  
     with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.  
 Amen.

**Assurance of forgiveness**

The Lord God says:  
     be assured your sins are forgiven,  
 your slate is wiped clean.

Listen to the word of God and know its truth.  
 Amen.

**Hymn/song**

TIS #390 – “Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks”

**Welcome**

These events take place in the morning after Jesus was arrested.  
 He has been put on trial by the religious leaders,  
     now he is brought before the Roman leader, Pilate.  
 Jesus and Pilate’s exchange  
     reveals the vast difference between Pilate’s understanding of kingship  
     and authority and Jesus’.  
 For Pilate this is about rules and power;  
 for Jesus it is about truth and community.  
 This is Jesus making it clear why he is here.  
 He has come to make the truth known.

But what is truth?

It means different things to different people  
 remember the Climate change discussions, or the US elections in 2020.

We read in the New Testament that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.  
 If we truly believe that we need to learn to listen to his voice  
     in all that we do, think or say.

This week we explore what it means to belong to the truth.

**Readings**

John 18:33-37 Video

*respond*

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Hymn/song/video
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TIS #228 – “Crown Him with many crowns”
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**Address**

How do we discover truth?  
How do we listen to Christ’s voice?

How long does it take for babies to recognise the voices of different people?  
When my granddaughter was around six months old,  
    I was leading church, and my daughter brought Charlotte to watch me.  
Every time I said something,  
    my granddaughter became much more attentive.  
    She was tuned into my voice.

It doesn’t happen overnight,  
    but it is something that we learn to do.  
We recognise voices that we listen to regularly.  
    If we listen to God’s voice often enough we recognise it.  
But that asks the question, how do we recognise God in our lives.

The president of a toy company, had a brainstorm:  
    lets make a Jesus doll?  
Other toy company executives were horrified.  
    He consulted with some religious leaders,  
    including the Pope, and the Jesus doll was born.  
It had beautiful eyes and was wrapped in swaddling cloth.  
    It came in a package, made to look like a Bible.

The Jesus doll was a horrible flop.  
    Parents were horrified at the idea of their child undressing the Jesus doll,  
    dragging it around, sticking it in the bathtub.  
It was such a horrible mistake that the company recalled the dolls. (1)

But why did it fail some might ask.  
    A part of the answer might be that  
    you simply can’t reduce Christ to the level of Barbie or Batman doll  
    or a rock star, or a politician, or even a monarch.

When you know Christ  
    You know you can’t reduce him to everyday earthly icons.

Have you ever been in a situation where you were trying to listen out for someone’s voice?  
For example, in a busy shop  
    and you had become separated from the person you were with,  
or in a crowded airport,  
    when you were searching for the person who had come to meet you?  
You know the voice well of the person you are looking for  
    and you try to tune your ears accordingly to concentrate for that sound.

I took part of a wedding Sunday afternoon.  
The bride had a very high, loud squeaky voice.  
    I would know it anywhere.

Some people can mimic another person's voice,  
Others may just sound like someone else you know.  
Maybe you have been misled  
thinking you heard someone's voice, but it wasn't them  
Fortunately, in everyday life, this doesn't happen very often.  
Usually, especially if we know someone really well, we can tell the real voice from the mimic's  
it is hard to impersonate someone perfectly.

Jesus says that those who belong to him,  
who seek to follow the truth,  
should listen to his voice.  
We will only be able to do that if we can recognise his voice  
in a world of lots competing voices all talking at the same time.

This isn't something that happens overnight.  
But it can and will happen if we work at it;  
if we listen to his voice often enough  
that we begin to know its tones, its rhythms and its patterns.  
We do that primarily through reading the bible.

The 4 Gospels give us 4 windows into the things Jesus said and did.  
The Old Testament gives us,  
among other things,  
a picture of what the Messiah would be like.  
Through reading the Bible we learn to recognise Jesus' voice – or God's voice, if you prefer.

But it is not only by reading;  
personal reading of Scripture is a relatively modern phenomenon.  
Hearing it, learning and retelling its stories,  
talking about it, wrestling with it together  
these are the ways that God's people learn to hear God's voice  
and listen to his truth.

In answer to Pilate's repeated questions  
about whether he was a king,  
Jesus said:  
'For this I was born,  
and for this I came into the world,  
to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'  
Recognising God's voice helps us recognise God.

Are we listening?  
Can we recognise His voice?

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Even today we struggle to recognise Jesus.  
It's unbelievable to us that God would give up His Heavenly Throne  
to take on human flesh and human weakness and human struggles.  
There is a thought-provoking piece titled "They Missed Him!"

that could easily apply to us today.  
Here are just a few quotes from it:

“They were looking for a Lion, He came as a Lamb, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a Warrior, He came as a Peacemaker, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a King, He came as a Servant, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for Liberation from Rome,  
He submitted to the Roman cross, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a fit to their mould, He was the mould maker, and they missed Him.

What are we looking for?  
Lion? Warrior? King? Liberator?

. . . He came as a Lamb to be sacrificed for your sin. Will you miss Him?  
He came to make peace between God and man. Will you miss Him?  
He came to model servanthood for all mankind. Will you miss Him? . . .  
He came that we might have true Liberty. Will you miss Him?  
He came to give you eternal life. Will you miss Him?

When we submit to the Lamb, we will meet the Lion.  
Join with the Peacemaker and we will meet the Warrior.  
Work with the Servant [as a servant], and we will meet the King . . .”  
Are you listening?  
Can you recognise His voice?  
Can you recognise him?  
Amen

	<b>Hymn/song</b> The servant king
	<b>Offering</b>
	<b>Notices</b>
	<b>Prayers for all people</b>  King of love, you came among us not as a mighty ruler but as a child. We pray for the children in our midst that we would cherish them, listen to them and protect them, and that we would bring their concerns to the heart of our worship. We remember all who lead ministry among children and young people, and ask for courage, kindness and wisdom as they help children and young people to flourish in faith. We give thanks for all who work in safeguarding, and ask that we would all be more aware of the signs of abuse, and work to make our church communities places of safety and sanctuary.



We long for your kingdom where the weak are defended.  
You call us to follow you.

**Help us to hear your voice.**

King of love,  
as Azeem Rafiq's testimony shines a light on institutional racism in cricket  
and on the damage caused by bullying, abuse and unjust systems;  
we pray for fresh courage for all who work tirelessly for racial justice,  
and for all who challenge the status quo to urge change.

May we never be bystanders to distress  
but ready to speak for the voiceless;  
more urgent in our cry for equal treatment of all  
and more insistent that our churches reflect genuine diversity.  
We long for your kingdom of justice and freedom.  
You call us to follow you.

**Help us to hear your voice.**

King of love,  
we pray for the homeless and for the displaced peoples of the world;  
for people who sleep on the street in the cold of the night;  
for migrants who have become pawns in a proxy war on the border of Belarus;  
and for all children who are victims of adult wars  
that they would find shelter and comfort.

You made your home with us;  
may we open our hearts to others.  
We long for your kingdom of generous self-giving.  
You call us to follow you.

**Help us to hear your voice.**

King of love,  
we pray for standards in public life,  
and ask that decisions would be taken that reshape parliament and defend  
democracy.  
We pray that MPs would serve the needs of their constituents.  
When political leaders fail us because of self-serving desire for status or power  
and they do not show commitment to change,  
may we be faithful in prayer for them and all leaders.  
May we live as you taught us  
placing the needs of others above our own;  
and work for a world where status is unimportant and the least and last are first.  
We long for the values of your upside-down kingdom!  
You call us to follow you.

**Help us to hear your voice.**

King of love,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine as Russian troops gather on the border  
and for people endangered because of floods and landslides in Western Canada.  
We pray for all who have been caught up in the terror attack in Liverpool:  
for bystanders and for the driver of the taxi  
whose quick thinking prevented a worse tragedy.

We ask that the motivations for this attack would be discovered and that this incident would not give energy to those who wish to spread hatred. We long for your kingdom of peace. You call us to follow you.

**Help us to hear your voice.**

King of love,  
we pray for all who feel alone or in despair  
that you would be present in their suffering.  
We pray today for all who work in mental health  
asking for skill and tenderness as they seek to restore well-being.  
We pray for all we know who are sick and ask for your healing.  
In the quiet, we name people who need your peace today...  
Surround all who are vulnerable with your care and compassion.  
We long for your kingdom of wholeness and rest.  
You call us to follow you.

**Help us to hear your voice.**

King of love,  
through the challenges all around us,  
keep our eyes fixed on you.  
We pray for our friends and our families  
in all their needs and their joys;  
and we pray for our church communities  
that we would be known by our love  
and welcome all in need  
just as you have welcomed us.  
We long for your kingdom where we will all be at home.  
You call us to follow you.

**Help us to hear your voice.**

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

### Hymn/song

Amazing Love Hillsong

	<p><b>We are sent out</b>  Christ our King,  as we go from this place,  assure us of your presence with us –  for we belong to you.</p> <p>Help us to look for truth in all places,  to seek and listen to your voice,  and to use your power to serve.  Bring heaven to earth and reign in our lives.  We pray in your name, Jesus Christ.  Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us  and keep us  May His face shine upon us  and be gracious to us  May he lift up His countenance upon us  and give us peace Amen</p>
	<p><b>Benediction</b>  Shalom</p>
	<p><b>Thank you</b></p>