



Wayne's Words

Rev. Wayne Walters

Sunday 21st November, 2021



Readings: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Revelation 1:4-8

What's in a Name?

As the eldest son of the Queen, Prince Charles' full title is:

'His Royal Highness Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB, OM, AK, QSO, PC, ADC, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland'.

That's quite a mouthful. Yet these days we are not so in awe of titles and royalty, whose role seems to be mainly symbolic and ceremonial or confined to a chess board.

The concept of kingship is very outdated to our ears. So of what relevance is it to us to honour the last Sunday before Advent as a celebration of 'Christ the King'?

It was always understood in Ancient Israel that God was the true king of the nation, and the anointed king ruled as his regent – his 'Son'. In Revelation, Jesus Christ is revealed as the 'Ruler of the Kings of the Earth' among his many titles: the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the Dead; the Alpha and the Omega; the Living One; the Lamb of God; the Bright Morning Star, the Good Shepherd, Saviour, Son of Man, Son of God; the Resurrection and the Life; the Light of the World ... and we could go on.

A title is meant to mean something – to be descriptive of what the person actually is and does, and this is so true of Jesus. His names describe the work God gave him to do which he accomplished completely. 'It is finished!'

As our king, Jesus left us two new commands in addition to the great commandments that he affirmed from the Torah (Old Testament).

These were not burdensome. They are about building wholesome relationships for life. 'Love one another' – addressed to his disciples.

'Love one another as I have loved you.' This surely means at least as Hebrews said last week to be zealous about turning up to church gatherings so that we might get to know each other better and encourage one another to be active in our faith. It means more than that, of course, which is a challenge in our time poor world where we are inundated with needs and demands. Let's make time for each other and choose to stay for a chat after church with someone different each week. Pray for each other using the phone list that was sent out. Our faith may be very personal, but it was never meant to be so private that we never talk about it with others.

Which brings us to Jesus' second and last command, but more about that next time. We have enough to do for now getting the first one activated ... Your move!

God bless,

Wayne