

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY
Reflections for St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia

Sunday November 21, 2021: Christ the King Sunday, Year B
(Via Conference Call & In-Church)

Epistle: Revelation 1:4b-8

⁴ Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel: John 18:33-37

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' ³⁴ Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' ³⁵ Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' ³⁶ Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' ³⁷ 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.'

Ideas for discussing the application of this lesson to our daily lives:

1. Do you find reading Revelation to be more or less challenging than the Gospels and letters? Why?
2. In the Epistle, v.5, what is the author John's meaning in the phrase, "first born of the dead?"
3. In the Gospel, do you feel that Jesus' responses to Pilate are play on words? What is the primary reason Jesus would not respond more directly to Pilate?
4. In the Gospel, v. 36, is Jesus denying that he is a Jew? What is happening here?

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Start: 9:30am: End 10:30am