



CHRIST THE KING

by Ian Menzies

Do you have a 'favourite' Sunday in the church year?

Some obvious candidates are Christmas and Easter.

For me, strangely enough, I think my favourite is the last Sunday on the Liturgical Calendar, variously known as 'Christ the King' or 'The Reign of Christ'.

I'm not sure why, but I think it may be because of the many stirring hymns that so suit that theme.

I fondly remember a fellow congregational member with a spectacular voice singing the bass lines of 'All hail the power of Jesus' name' (to the magnificent tune 'Diadem') and who was capable of a solo plunging and rolling through multiple 'Crown hims' against the congregation's singing of the melody line.

Quietly, I would attempt to follow his lead, which wasn't so easy for an ex-boy soprano still wishing to soar through the descants.

Christ as 'King' seems to be losing favour as a metaphor these days, probably because of the implicit masculinity of the title.

'Kingdom' is sometimes being swapped for 'Kin-dom'.

The gruesome lectionary readings tracing the lead up to the crucifixion that precede the day can seem out of kilter with the Advent season that immediately follows, not to mention clashing with the simultaneous 'merry' Christmas shopping frenzy that seems to commence earlier each year.

And yet, my heart still swells when we sing:

'Let every tribe and every tongue
responsive to his call,
now shout in universal song
and crown him Lord of all.'

Edward Perronet, 1726-92, *at*