

A night landscape with a starry sky. A bright star in the upper left corner emits a vertical beam of light. In the foreground, a small house with a light on is situated on a hill. The background features rolling mountains under a dark, star-filled sky.

The Third Sunday of Advent
“The Advent of The King”

God sent us His Son out of His **LOVE** for us,
whose birth, life and death gives us the true **HOPE**
that we can have renewed and perfect **PEACE**
fulfilled by our sacrificial and sovereign **KING**
which produces unspeakable **JOY** within us

- Our Uttermost Need for a King
 - Our Uttermost King
 - Our Uttermost Salvation
 - Our Uttermost Nearness

Hebrews 7:11-28

^{15b} ...another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶ who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the ***power of an indestructible life***. ¹⁷ For it is witnessed of him,

“You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its ***weakness and uselessness*** ¹⁹ (***for the law made nothing perfect***); but on the other hand, ***a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.***

²² This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

We Need A King

1 Samuel 8:4-5

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

John 6:15

Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Identity

Provide

Protect

We Need A King

Psalm 10:16

The LORD is king forever and ever;
the nations perish from his land.

John 12:15

“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your
king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”

We Need A King

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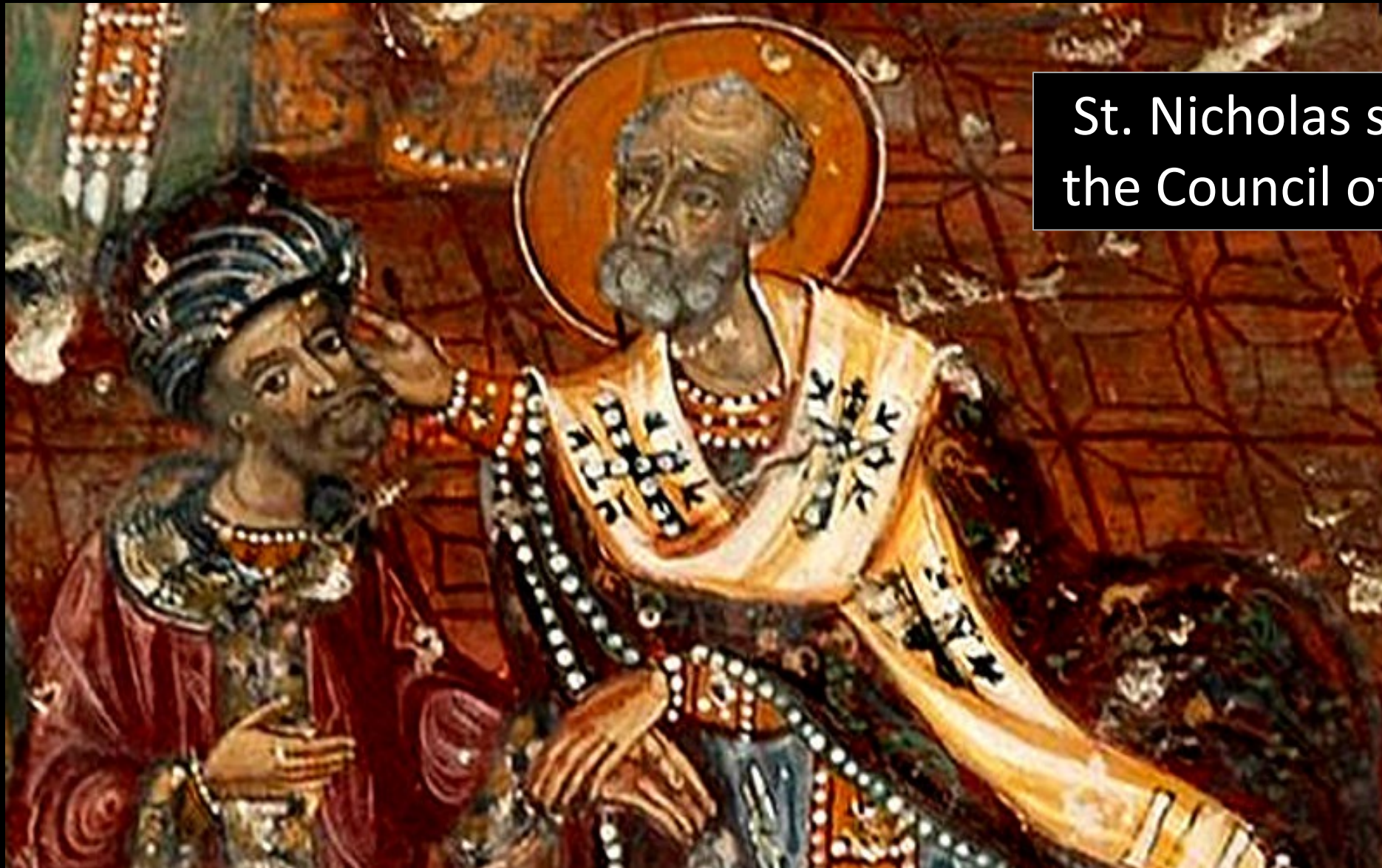
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Matthew 2:1-4

(Competing Kings)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.



St. Nicholas slapping Arius at
the Council of Nicaea, 325 AD

Our Uttermost King

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Holy

Divine “Otherness” and Purity

Our Uttermost King

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Holy

Divine “Otherness” and Purity

Innocent

Fully Unblemished from the Inside

Unstained

Fully Unblemished from the Outside

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Divine “Otherness” and Purity

Innocent

Fully Unblemished from the Inside

Unstained

Fully Unblemished from the Outside

Separated

The Uttermost Man

Exalted

The Uttermost God

Our Uttermost King

¹⁶ (Jesus) has become a priest...by the power of an ***indestructible life***.

Indestructible Life
(*“incapable of being destroyed”*)

Our Uttermost King

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Indestructible Life
(*“incapable of being destroyed”*)

“There is in fact no God behind the back of Jesus, no act of God other than the act of Jesus, no God but the God we see and meet in him. Jesus Christ is the open heart of God, the very love and life of God poured out to redeem humankind, the mighty hand and power of God stretched out to heal and save sinners. All things are in God's hands, but the hands of God and the hands of Jesus, in life and in death, are the same.”

TF Torrence

Rev. Robert Murray M'Cheyne (c. 1840, he was in mid mid-20s)

Learn much of the Lord Jesus. For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ. He is altogether lovely. Such infinite majesty, and yet such meekness and grace, and all for sinners, even the chief!

Live much in the smiles of God. Bask in His beams. Feel His all-seeing eye settled on you in love, and [rest] in His almighty arms . . .

Let your soul be filled with a heart-ravishing sense of the sweetness and excellency of Christ and all that is in Him. Let the Holy Spirit fill every chamber of your heart; and so there will be no room for folly, or the world, or Satan, or the flesh.

Our Uttermost Salvation

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We could not draw near to God because of our sin.

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So God drew near to us at Christmas

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We could not draw near to God because of our sin.

So God drew near to us at Christmas

And picks us up to draw us near to Him.

Our Uttermost Salvation

²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

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Uttermost Salvation

All the way throughout the earth

All the way through me

All the way throughout time

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All the way throughout time

John 12:13

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

John 19:19

Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

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Uttermost Salvation

All the way throughout the earth
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All the way throughout time

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Uttermost Salvation

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All the way through me
All the way throughout time

Uttermost Intercession

Intimately Within Us
Perpetually Praying For Us
Perfectly Connecting Us

Luke 22:31

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

Our Uttermost Nearness

Matthew 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

^{19b} but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which ***we draw near to God.***

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Matthew 28:20b

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Gospel Response

What King am I following?

Draw near to Immanuel.

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26



Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

Nicene Creed

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

Nicene Creed

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* "catholic" means unified

Benediction

Psalm 47:6-8

Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

⁷ For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

⁸ God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

Revelation 19:6

Then I heard what seemed to be
the voice of a great multitude,
like the roar of many waters and
like the sound of mighty peals of
thunder, crying out,

*“Hallelujah! For the Lord our
God the Almighty reigns.”*

Please join us up front after worship if you'd like for us to pray with you