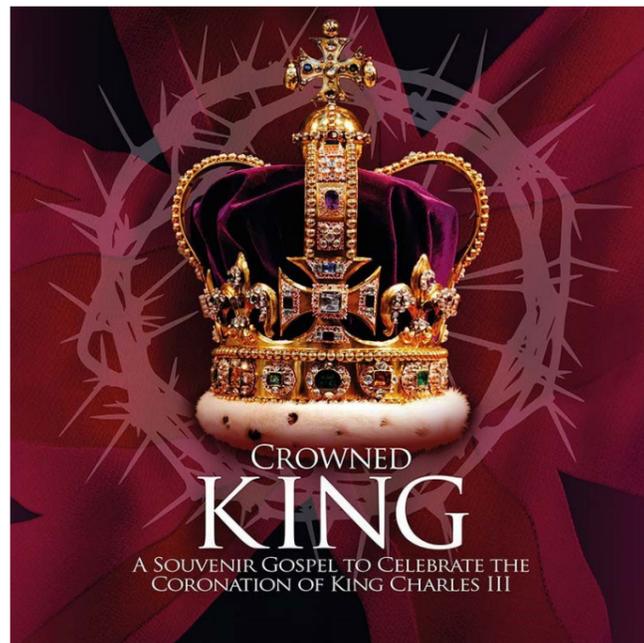


THE CORONATION WEEKEND AND THE KING OF KINGS

Rachel Jordan-Wolf

RACHEL JORDAN-WOLF SHARES EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Have you plans for the Coronation weekend? It's a great opportunity to gather the community and to celebrate together, with the church at the heart of this national moment. Westminster Abbey really will be the heart of the Coronation ceremony as this unique rite and service takes place in this



ancient building built for worship. This gives us an opportunity to point to the ultimate King, the King of Kings - Jesus Christ.

Hope Together have partnered with Biblica to do just that by producing a souvenir edition of Matthew's Gospel. It has a beautiful celebratory cover and an illustrated introduction on the Christian symbolism and witness inherent in the service. Catherine Butcher, who is now a royal commentator for UK news media, has written this stunning introduction. It takes the reader through the prayers and promises that King Charles will make and shows how he will need the help of God to fulfil this role. It helps us understand the anointing and symbolism of being called by God. Catherine points out the cross on all the crown jewels and how this demonstrates that all power is held under the authority of Christ.

During the Coronation ceremony and service, just like his mother the late Queen, King Charles will be given a bible. When the late Queen was handed this she was told it was 'the greatest treasure this world affords.' It is this same treasure that we are offering to all the people who receive a copy of Matthew's Gospel, a treasure greater than all the jewels in the world - the word of God. This will help readers to follow on and read the life of the King of Kings, finding out all about Jesus Christ for themselves.

Our hope is that this book will be passed out at the street parties planned up and down the land. If you're thinking of running one you can find all the help you need on the Eden Project's website for the Coronation Big Lunch www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch. The Big Lunch is a great opportunity to build deeper relationships with



those in your local community and it can be as big or small as you can manage. It might be a simple glass of something sparkling and piece of cake or a full blown all day event! Hope Together have produced a special Grace that you can use for these occasions just as people are about to dive into their food. With the Grace and the books, the community celebration becomes an opportunity to witness. You can find the Grace on the Hope together website. hopetogether.org.uk/thekingscoronation

Recently, the new king came to visit the area in which I live here in Shoreditch. I was amazed by the level of excitement from the local school children, they were shouting, waving, jumping up and down and they all desperately wanted to shake the king's hand! Many schools will look to give their school children a commemorative gift to mark the occasion of the king's Coronation and the souvenir of Matthew's Gospel is the perfect gift. We have created an assembly plan to go with it that you can use to help primary

children think about the Coronation and turn their thoughts to the King of Kings. It's called 'If the hat fits'. Looking at what it means to be a monarch, it can help children think about questions like 'Is a king or queen just about wearing a crown?' and 'Do you choose to be a king or queen, or are you chosen?' There's even a ready to run slideshow presentation; you can find these on the Hope Together website.

Your church might be running a special service over the Coronation weekend or want to take a moment in your normal Sunday service to pause and pray for the new king. Hope Together have written a prayer for these services; it is free to download on the website. A Coronation service is again a good invitation to those in the community or you could involve local schools and bring them in to mark the occasion with you. The souvenir Gospel would make a great gift for these occasions. If you are looking for more resources to run a Coronation service on the Sunday then the Church

of England website contains a whole set. www.churchofengland.org/coronation/prayer-worship

The final day of the Coronation weekend is the Big Help Out. This is a fantastic opportunity for churches to volunteer, serve and share again with their neighbours. Thousands of organisations will be marking the Coronation by giving everybody the chance to try volunteering for themselves and make a difference in their community. This would be something that your church could be part of 'growing community' and serving alongside others whilst making new friends and getting to know neighbours better.

If you're simply watching the Coronation on TV, why not get some friends round to watch it together so that you can share your faith and give out the Souvenir Gospel. You could use the Grace before you all eat cake! There are so many opportunities and we at Hope would love to hear from you about what you're doing where you are. Do send in your stories to office@hopetogether.org.uk

Have a great Coronation Weekend and let's pray that people pause, think and find out about the King of Kings: Jesus Christ, as a result of this national moment. If you've enjoyed hearing from Hope then do sign up to our regular e-news hopetogether.org.uk/signup.

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf is the Executive Director of Hope Together. She leads the Hope Together team as they equip and inspire churches to reach out with the Good News of Jesus.

