

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: Carols + 25 December
Services: *Across the Diocese*
Series: On that day
Title: His Kingdom knows no end
Passage: Luke 1:32-33; Isaiah 9:1-7

- “I believe in Christ, risen from the dead
He now reigns victorious, **His kingdom knows no end**
Through His resurrection, death has lost its hold
I know on that final day, I'll rise as Jesus rose” //
- One line I want to pick up on from those words... which are talking about Jesus...
- **He now reigns victorious // His kingdom knows no end**
- I want you to imagine I gave you two **boxes of sticky labels**...
- You know the ones – like a roll of postage stamps... only bigger...
- Where you roll out a **label** and you're able to stick it on something...
- **Two** boxes and just **one** word on each **label**...
- In **one** box – on every label is the word “**temporary**”
- And the **other** box – on every label – is the word “**permanent**”
- Ok – got your **boxes** ready?
- Now imagine I gave you a **task**...
- I asked you to go around everything in your house and label it with the **appropriate label**...
- **Microwave?** Which label...? **Temporary**... Susan and I had to buy a new microwave a couple of months ago... first time I'd been in Harvey Norman for years....
- **TV** – temporary
- **Mattress** – temporary
- **Fridge** – temporary – how long do they last now? 10 years?
- **Dishwasher, toaster, washing machine, stove**...
- Sandwich maker; **pancake** maker (got to love those!)
- Even **lounge**... and **lamp** and **coffee table**...
- Out to the back **yard** – outdoor **setting** – and the **BBQ**
- Into the **garage** – **mower, blower, trimmer, - CAR!! //**
- Gosh – our **permanent box** hasn't been **used** at **all yet!**
- What about the house itself – which label will you put on that?

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- Yes – **temporary** – we used to live in Roseville in Sydney – and whenever we go back – one more beautiful old home which was someone’s haven and sanctuary for years – where beautiful family memories were collected over sometimes more than 100 years – has been knocked down so that another **apartment block** has been be **put up....**
- So – yes – mark your **home** itself as – **temporary....**
- and then in the community around you.... What labels would you use?
- That **tree** that’s been there forever – no – someone could take that **out...**
- That beautiful **view** overlooking the mountain – no – someone could take out by building in front of you or wrecking the view in some other way
- That **park** – well – who knows?
- The car yards on the corner at **West Bathurst** – well – no – that’s now a **McDonalds** and **Subway** and **7/11....**
- The Avis **rental** yard – no – that’s now a Mexican fast-food place....
- **Nothing** here is **permanent!!**
- Even **Rosehill** racecourse in Sydney – turns out in the past two weeks – **that’s** only **temporary...**
- What about the **government...** and government **departments?**
- No – **they** come and go... and every time there is a new government all the **ministries** - or **many** of them – are changed...
- Anastasia Palaszczuk has resigned... there are now no state premiers remaining who led their states through COVID!
- **What** about government **leaders** on the world **stage...?**
- Even our dear late Queen **Elizabeth II** has now **gone...**
- Even our dear late Queen **Elizabeth II** has now **gone...**
- AND – **Putin** – only **temporary** – President **ZI** – despite the way they’ve changed their nation’s laws to stay on in leadership – they actually won’t be around **forever**
- **Temporary temporary temporary**
- Everything is **temporary** – only here for a **time...**
- **EXCEPT...** except...
- What did our **song** say about **Jesus?**
- **HIS kingdom knows no end!**
- Peel off one your ‘**permanent**’ labels and stick it on **Jesus!**
- **HIS** kingdom knows no end!
- That’s a **staggering thing** we recall at **Christmas isn’t it?**
- That this **boy** that was born – is God visiting our planet as one of us...
- And that he **rules** the world and **will rule** the world **FOREVER.**
- So we sang in the **carols...**
 - In our opening carol – we shall see him in **heaven**, set at God’s right hand on high

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- In the second carol – come and behold him – born the **king of angels**
 - In “O little town of Bethlehem”, we sang, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in **thee** tonight”
 - Or in “Joy to the world” we sing “The Lord is **come**: let earth receive her **KING**”!!! ///
 - **Extraordinary** things we **sing** about this little baby **born**.
 - And the **notion** that his kingdom knows no **end**, comes to us from the **Bible**...
 - From the prophet Isaiah – 700 years before Jesus was even born we read: “
*Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*
 - We read the same concept when the angel first told Mary the astonishing news that she was pregnant...
He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”
 - Or in the Psalms – the hymn book of the Old Testament - 145
*Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.*
 - Or in the very last book of the Bible – Revelation 11:15
*“The kingdom of the world has become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,
and he will reign for ever and ever.”*
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- Friends we live in a temporary world where nothing is **permanent**, and few things are **reliable**.
 - But we remember at Christmas - someone was born who will reign **forever** and whose **kingdom will have no end**
 - and that means that in the **mess** which is this **world** – and often – in the **mess** which is our **lives** – there is **something** – **someone** – **reliable** – **dependable**...
 - whose reign is not marked by **terror** or **oppression** or **injustice** – but by love and **compassion** and **truth** and **transparency**... **mercy**... righting **eventually** – all that is **wrong** with our world – and all that is **wrong** with **me**.
 - And this is not just about a vague distant **hope** for the **future**... this is about **NOW**
 - For he invites us to **love** him and **know** him and **live with him** and **serve** him and **turn** to him and trust him **now** – in the **mess** – and he will bind our **wounded hearts** – and heal our **crushed hopes** – and mend our **trashed lives**
 - He will put us back together and lead us in the **right way**
 - He will nurture our very **souls**

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- He will change us from the **inside // out...** so we become people of **love and patience and joy and compassion....** Just as **he is...**
 - His Kingdom is **NOW** – and one day – he will reign **supreme** – and this **Christmas** I want you to remember that **nothing** – nothing **here** is **permanent....**
 - But **Jesus.... Jesus** born to us... **HIS kingdom knows no end!!! /////**
 - **Have a wonderful Christmas!!**
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