Kingdom Come: Final Celebration

FOR THE KINGDOM • KINGDOM COME

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Final Celebration

Acts 1:6–11 • Part Six

Kensington Temple London City Church
Energise Conference • 6.00 pm • 25 October 2026
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THE CENTRAL VISION

The risen King gives his Church the Spirit, a witness and a world. Celebration becomes consecration, and gratitude becomes mission.

A THRESHOLD, NOT AN ENDING

The final gathering stands at a threshold. Behind the Church are stories of salvation, restoration, hospitality, generosity and prayer; before it lies a future not yet seen; above it reigns Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and ascended. The moment is therefore not a funeral for what has been, but the turning of a page. Memory must become mandate, and gratitude for yesterday must become obedience tomorrow.

Many of the greatest miracles happened away from the platform: in kitchens, hospital rooms, school gates and gravesides; through meals shared, strangers welcomed, enemies forgiven and friends refused abandonment. Ordinary people trusted that an extraordinary God could use them. The question is no longer simply, “Wasn’t that wonderful?” It is: “What might God do next?”

THE THRESHOLD

We do not gather to preserve a memory. We gather to receive a mandate.

PROMISE	COMMISSION	HOPE
The Spirit will come	You will be witnesses	Jesus will return

1 JESUS GIVES A VOCATION, NOT A TIMETABLE

Acts 1 places the disciples between resurrection and Pentecost. They ask whether Jesus will now restore the kingdom to Israel. Their longing for justice is understandable, but Jesus enlarges their vision. They ask for a timetable; he gives them a task. They ask when power will change hands; he promises that power will come upon them. Their horizon is a nation; his horizon is the world.

The Church often asks the same question: When will God heal, restore, answer, revive or put things right? Jesus does not satisfy every curiosity about times and seasons. He gives his people the Holy Spirit and calls them into witness. We want certainty; Jesus gives us his presence. We want to know what happens next; Jesus tells us who we must become now.

KINGDOM REORIENTATION

Their concern is the timing of the kingdom. Christ's concern is the witness of the Church.

2 POWER HAS A PURPOSE

The promised power of the Holy Spirit heals, delivers, transforms and gives prophetic courage. Yet Acts 1 never separates spiritual power from missional purpose: "You will receive power" is joined to "you will be my witnesses." The Spirit is not given merely to make meetings more exciting, but to make lives more faithful; not simply to give the Church a moment, but to make it a movement.

The power of Pentecost enables believers to speak when silence would be safer, love when hatred would be easier, cross boundaries, forgive, reconcile, serve and testify. The evidence of the Spirit is not only that people fall beneath his presence, but that they rise with courage. Growing up amid the Troubles in Northern Ireland exposed the destructive force of hardened identities and inherited suspicion. The gospel cannot secure private peace with God while leaving public hostility untouched. Jesus saves persons and creates a reconciled people.

This calling reaches every sphere. Teachers, entrepreneurs, doctors, nurses, carers, artists, civil servants, politicians, parents, scientists, builders, drivers, cleaners, lawyers, engineers and counsellors can carry the character, truth and compassion of Jesus. There is no sacred hierarchy of vocations: some are called to the pulpit, but all are called to witness; some are ordained by the Church, but all are commissioned by Christ.

PRESENCE	PURPOSE	PUBLIC LIFE
The Spirit fills ordinary people	Power becomes faithful witness	Every vocation becomes mission

THE MONDAY CALLING

Your workplace is part of your mission field. Your neighbourhood is part of your parish. Your ability is part of your offering.

3 A GEOGRAPHY OF MISSION

Jesus names Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. The gospel begins where the disciples are, but refuses to remain there. Jerusalem is the familiar place; Judea is the wider region; Samaria is the wounded and difficult place, marked by cultural hostility; the ends of the earth are the places not yet imagined.

Every church needs all four horizons: family, friends and neighbourhood; the wider city and nation; those it might naturally avoid or fail to understand; and a global vision large enough to require supernatural grace. The Spirit gathers the Church and then scatters it. God calls people into his presence to heal, fill and commission them for the world.

A final celebration therefore cannot finish with applause. Applause remembers what someone else has done; commissioning accepts what God is calling us to do. Christ is not searching for admirers but calling witnesses. A witness does not need to know everything. A witness tells the truth about what has been seen and heard. Personal testimony can become the bridge across which another person walks towards Jesus.

JERUSALEM	SAMARIA	ENDS OF EARTH
the people nearest to us	the boundary we must cross	the horizon God enlarges

THE WITNESS

I was lost, but Christ found me. I was bound, but Christ delivered me. I was empty, but Christ filled me.

4 DO NOT LOOK UP AND WITHDRAW

After the ascension, the disciples stand looking into heaven. The angelic question exposes a danger: believers can become so fascinated by heaven that they fail to obey God on earth; so occupied with Christ's return that they neglect Christ's command; so ready to sing about glory that they walk past suffering.

Christian hope is not escapism. Jesus will return, and evil, death, violence, empire, injustice, poverty, exploitation, loneliness and despair will not have the final word. Jesus Christ will have the final word. Because the King is coming, the Church does not retreat. It witnesses, works and worships. It builds communities that anticipate God's future.

The Church feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, seeks justice, proclaims salvation, reconciles enemies, cares for creation and disciples nations because the kingdom is coming. The kingdom cannot be built by human ingenuity, for it belongs to God; but by the Spirit, the Church can become its sign, servant and witness.

RESURRECTION HOPE

Christian hope does not make us passive about history. It makes us courageous within it.

5 COME HOME TO THE KING

Before the Church is sent, people must be saved. No one can represent a King they have never received. The ascended Christ is the Jesus who first descended in love, entered human suffering, carried sin, died our death and broke the authority of the grave. He offers forgiveness, reconciliation and new life to all who call upon him.

The appeal is direct: leave religious performance, pretence and distance; turn from sin; trust Jesus Christ; receive him as Saviour, Lord and King. Grace is not negotiated or earned. It is received. The Church exists so that people may encounter Jesus, receive life and join the mission of God.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Lord Jesus Christ, I come to you as I am. I turn from my sin and surrender my life to you. Forgive me, restore me and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Be my Saviour, my Lord and my King. Amen.

6 A CORPORATE COVENANT FOR THE NEXT SEASON

The disciples left the Mount of Olives without a complete strategy, but with a promise, a commission and a hope. That was enough for the first step, and it is enough for the Church. Faith is not possession of the whole map; it is confidence in the One who leads.

The covenant refuses nostalgia, paralysis, cynicism, spectatorship and private religion. The Church will remain rooted in Scripture, dependent upon the Holy Spirit, centred upon Jesus and committed to the world God loves. It will be a people of the presence and the public square; of worship and witness; holiness and hospitality; truth and tenderness; gathered in power and scattered in purpose.

ROOTED	EMPOWERED	SENT
deeply in Scripture	radically by the Spirit	courageously to the world

KINGDOM CALL LITURGY

The final response turns conviction into covenant. The leader calls, "King of Kings, we cry," and the people answer, "Let your kingdom come." The refrain places every part of life beneath the reign of Christ.

ADORATION	Over our lives, homes, church and future, until every rival loyalty is surrendered.
CONSECRATION	Take our minds, hearts, hands, feet, voices and resources for truth, love, service, mission and generosity.
CHURCH AND COMMUNITY	Make the Church a home for the lonely, a family for the forgotten and a place of healing for the wounded.
PUBLIC LIFE	In schools, hospitals, businesses, universities, councils, parliaments, studios and streets, establish justice and the common good.
SALVATION AND MISSION	Reach the friend, the prodigal and the nation still waiting; send us to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.
THE NEXT SEASON	Through every open door, hidden path and costly act of obedience, let the Church live under the reign of Christ.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: King of Kings, we cry. People: Let your kingdom come.

FINAL SENDING: CELEBRATION BECOMES MISSION

KTLCC is sent into the next season without fear: to witness to the resurrection, carry hope into abandoned places, cross dividing lines as agents of reconciliation, see those society overlooks and demonstrate a form of leadership shaped by service. Faith is neither hidden nor imposed arrogantly; it is embodied with courage, excellence, humility and love.

The presence of God is carried into ordinary places. Tables become places of belonging; workplaces become arenas of witness; resources become instruments of mercy; wounds become wells of compassion; testimony becomes invitation; prayer becomes action; worship becomes mission.

This final celebration is not the final witness, act of faith, song or harvest. It is the sound of a people being sent. The King is reigning, the Spirit is moving and the world is waiting. The Church must live so that, in every vocation and encounter, the prayer of Jesus becomes visible: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

THE CALL

Go as witnesses. Carry the presence. Cross the boundaries. Serve the common good. Proclaim Jesus. Let the kingdom come.