

Christ the King

A staged reading or play based on Colossians 1:10 - 20

By Dorian Scott Cole

NIV Colossians 1:10-20 "And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

Key concepts:

- We are in the Kingdom of Christ.
- Through him we gain:
 1. **Forgiveness and reconciliation to God**
 2. **Strength, patience, and endurance**
- God dwells in Christ to **reconcile** all things, making **peace** by the cross
- He is the head of the body (the people of the church)
- In him all things were created
- He is preeminent in all things

As a staged reading this is presented with minimal props, minimal action, and lines may be read.

As a short play, minimal props are required.

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Props

- High-back chair
- Sign: "Christ, King of What?"
- Very large book
- Magic wand
- Sword

Cast

- Child, or young adult, or several youth who change
- Wise person
- Politician
- Conqueror
- Person
- Voice of Christ (off stage)

Setting

An empty high-back chair sits center stage, representing a king's throne. Its emptiness represents the missing Christ. Across the top back of the chair is a sign: Christ, King of What?

Time: Present day.

Blocking

The chair sits at a 45° angle facing the audience and stage right so that it can be approached from stage right, giving the audience full view of both the chair and the person approaching and addressing the throne.

Characters enter from stage right (or left), address the throne, and then leave the stage.

Costumes

None are necessary.

ACT 1 (of 1)

A WISE PERSON APPROACHES THE THRONE FROM STAGE RIGHT, CARRYING A VERY LARGE BOOK.

WISE PERSON

(Seriously, but sarcastically)

Where are you O' Wise King? Show yourself so that I, a very wise man, can debate you.

(Pause)

THE WISE PERSON LISTENS, BUT THERE IS NO REPLY.

WISE PERSON

Just as I thought. So I will tell you a thing or two.

(Holds up the book, addresses the empty throne.)

I have learned many wise things. A king is majestic and he rules with wisdom. But I see the ignorant and poor slaving away while the rich grow wealthier and uncaring. Where are you [mocking] O' Powerful One, when they need you to do something?

A CHILD APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE CHAIR.

CHILD

You are such a wise person. Can you teach us to share and forgive, like Christ does, so we will have the ability to live fully?

WISE PERSON

(Pause, reflects, contrite)

Forgive me, Wise King, for considering myself to be wiser than God. You are truly wise above all people and King of all the universe. I offer you my book.

THE CHILD DISAPPEARS BEHIND THE CHAIR AS THE WISE PERSON TALKS. THE WISE PERSON KNEELS ON ONE LEG, PLACES THE BOOK AS AN OFFERING ON THE THRONE, AND EXITS THE STAGE.

A POLITICIAN ENTERS STAGE RIGHT, CARRYING A MAGIC WAND.

POLITICIAN

Where are you O' Powerful King? Show yourself so that I, a powerful politician, can instruct you.

(Pause)

THE POLITICIAN LISTENS, BUT THERE IS NO REPLY.

POLITICIAN

Just as I thought. Now you listen to me.

(Holds up the wand, addresses the throne and audience.)

When I move my hand to the right, people spring into action to do what I ask. When I move my hand to the left, like magic I give people what they want. Who do they respect, I who give them everything, or this absent and uncaring Lord?

A CHILD APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE CHAIR.

CHILD

You are such a powerful and giving politician. Will you help me become patient and kind, like Christ does, so that instead of being useless and demanding, I can become a powerful person who can earn things for myself and give to others?

POLITICIAN

(Pause, reflects, contrite)

Forgive me, Benevolent King, for considering myself to be more giving than God. You are truly benevolent above all people and King of all the universe. I offer you my wand.

THE CHILD DISAPPEARS BEHIND THE CHAIR AS THE POLITICIAN TALKS. THE POLITICIAN KNEELS ON ONE LEG, PLACES HIS WAND AS AN OFFERING ON THE THRONE, AND EXITS THE STAGE.

A MILITARY CONQUEROR ENTERS STAGE RIGHT, CARRYING A SWORD.

CONQUEROR

Where are you O' powerful King? Show yourself so that I, a powerful conqueror, can spar with you to show who is most powerful.

(Pause)

THE CONQUEROR LISTENS, BUT THERE IS NO REPLY.

CONQUEROR

Just as I thought, cowardly and hiding in the shadows.

(Holds up the sword, arms raised victoriously, and expecting no reply the person addresses the audience)

All people bow before *me*. I have made brilliant war strategies, created tremendously powerful weapons, conquered nations, and brought powerful armies to their knees. So just what has *this king* done?

A CHILD APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE CHAIR.

CHILD

You are such a powerful commander and have done so many powerful things. But can you teach us to love each other, like Christ does, so we lay down our weapons in peace and never make war again?

CONQUEROR

(Pause, reflects, contrite)

Forgive me, powerful King, for considering myself to be more powerful than God. You are truly powerful above all people and King of all the universe. I offer you my sword.

THE CHILD GOES BACK BEHIND THE CHAIR AS THE CONQUEROR TALKS. THE CONQUEROR KNEELS ON ONE LEG, PLACES HIS SWORD AS AN OFFERING ON THE THRONE, AND EXITS THE STAGE.

A PERSON ENTERS STAGE RIGHT, CARRYING NOTHING, SEES THE OFFERINGS ON THE CHAIR AND LOOKS DEJECTED.

PERSON

(Pause, views the offerings and looks dejected)

Forgive me King Of All, because I have nothing to offer you. All I have is myself, and I am a poor, unworthy and unskilled person.

(Pause, kneels before the throne)

VOICE OF CHRIST (O.S.)

You are the person that I created, and in my kingdom you have all of my power behind you. Tell others of my forgiveness, of my strength to carry your burdens, and my ability to make people strong. Tell them that I teach others to love and live in peace.

Because you are part of the Kingdom of the King Of All, you can help the world more than all those who know only their own kingdom – even the wise people, politicians, and military conquerors.

JOYFUL, EXITS STAGE

(OTHERS TAKE AWAY THE CHAIR AND PROPS).