



Welcome to
All Saints
Kings Heath
Your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham

Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany remembering the
Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Sunday 30th January 2022

We gather

*As we gather in Church, **we are required to wear masks when entering and moving around Church.** While we are allowed to remove them when in our place, rather as we do when going for a different kind of feast in a café or restaurant, wearing them is still advised. We continue to respect each other's physical distance and encourage conversation outside Church rather than mingling inside.*

We do not, at present, pass the collection plate around to receive offerings for the work of All Saints. If you wish to contribute a gift, please put it in the plate at the back of Church when you leave.

If you are worshipping at home, have ready in an honoured place a portion of food and something to drink. It may be bread and wine or something else. Set your Bible alongside. You might light a candle to mark the beginning of worship.

Music as we gather: [Purify my heart](#)

1. Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

*Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my master,
ready to do your will.*

2. Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

(words & music: Brian Doerksen)

Priest: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with *us* all. **Amen.**

WELCOME and NOTICES

HYMN [Make way, make way](#)

1. Make way, make way, for Christ the king in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;
make way, make way, and let his kingdom in!*

2. He comes the broken hearts to heal, the pris'ners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.

4. We call you now to worship him as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him, their thrones must fall.

(words & music: Graham Kendrick)

We pray: **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We seek forgiveness

CONFSSION

Deacon: St Paul said: "choose the higher gifts. I will show you a better way."
We confess that we have heard him, but often chosen the other way.

Silence

When we are envious, boastful or arrogant,
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

When we are irritable or resentful,
Christ, have mercy.
Christe eleison.

When we rejoice in wrongdoing,
Lord, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison.

(1 Corinthians 12:31-13:7)

ABSOLUTION *At home we pray for forgiveness. In church, the priest declares forgiveness for all, wherever we worship:*

May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Deacon: Faith hope and love abide,
All: **And the greatest of these is love.**

We celebrate God's forgiveness singing THE GLORIA

1. Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heavenly King;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.

2. Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated,
for your mercy, Lord we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy;
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three in One!

We pray THE COLLECT for Epiphany IV

. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=510193609>

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 13

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=510193687>

HYMN

1. Faithful vigil ended, watching, waiting, cease;
Master, grant thy servant his discharge in peace.
2. All thy Spirit promised, all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it, perfectly fulfilled.
3. This thy great deliv'rance sets thy people free;
Christ, their light, uplifted all the nations see.
4. Christ, thy people's glory! watching, doubting, cease;
grant to us thy servants our discharge in peace.

(words & music: Timothy Dudley-Smith, based on Luke 2:29-32; music: Friedrich Silcher)

GOSPEL READING [Luke 2:22-40](#)

*In church we stand and, when it is announced, we say:
Glory to you, O Lord.*

At the end: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *from Tariro*

This week I had the pleasure of attending a service of the consecration of three Bishops at St Paul's Cathedral in London. It was beautiful. If you are like me and for those who love art, history or things that shine, just the cathedral itself will capture your eyes and you would want to walk around and just take in how grand it is, the beautiful ceiling and different displays and craft that make the cathedral. As I stood as part of the congregation gathered to witness and celebrate as the 3 were to be made Bishops, they were presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury and there was the word, Presentation!

Today, we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. To take you a little back, this was something that Jewish people did, part of the Law of Moses as we heard it read in vs 22. When a woman gave birth, she was considered unclean and so would not be allowed in the temple. If it was a girl, it would be for 80 days and if it was a boy, 40 days. The law of Moses was important, it was God's plan for the Jewish people to be saved. It included being circumcised on the 8th day and paying 5 shekels of silver for the redemption for a baby as is written in Numbers 18:15-16 and the consecration of every firstborn male and offering of a sacrifice: a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a dove for a sin offering but if she cannot afford that, a pair of doves or two young pigeons (Leviticus 12:6-7). In our Old Testament reading we hear of burnt offerings and priests playing their role in that and the Lord speaking giving specific instruction to be followed.

There was a system and an order to things and everyday life happenings were marked and celebrated and this included births and deaths, marriages and milestones. So, Jesus is not above

the law when we read this narrative as given by Luke and his parents are law abiding citizens as we will continue to see in Luke's narrative. I guess their offering tell us where they stood in the social class. They were poor. Jesus is the son of a carpenter living in Nazareth far from the rich and famous, the movers and shakers as we sometimes call them and yet He is the Messiah, the Saviour promised, starting his life rooted in God's law.

Likewise, we too have systems in communities and cities we live in. Firstly, I would like to say, do not be discouraged by those who live as if they are above the law, envy or even copy what they do. We are not called to live worldly but 'wordly'. I'm sure at this point Mary and Joseph knew they were 'connected' to one with great power, God and could 'call' for some assistance or favour. We ought to look out and invest in our spiritual life more than material things. When we are spiritually healthy or sound, the rest flows. It creates a balance between physical, psychological, and social aspects of life. I do not know what your circumstance are, but my hope is that we do not use them as excuses or reasons to live as if we do not have and do not know the word and what it teaches us: to live at peace with all, to abide by the law, to love justice, to show mercy... and the list goes on.

Simeon and Anna as we meet them in this gospel have both lived long lives. Simeon is a righteous and devout man who has been looking for the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit is on him. To have the Holy Spirit on you is not something to be taken lightly. You have favour from above, God knows you by name, He has chosen you. But here he is, he has the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is on him and yet he has been looking, wanting to see the consolation of Israel that has been promised. Imagine living year after year, knowing he has the word but not yet fulfilled. Seeing the suffering of the people, the struggle and hardships and yet have been told that he will not see death before he had seen Christ. Anna is a prophetess who has been a widow until the age of 84 years but has been praying and fasting night and day for redemption in Jerusalem. She has lived for years hoping while still being frustrated by the world around her that suppresses.

They have kept on, believing, hoping, holding on to the promises, being faithful, going to the temple, spending time with God. Do you know that there are certain things that can happen to us as believers, as children of God that physically you might not see it but internally can be suffering? A lot of us do not look like how we feel inside and yet can be bruised inside, crying inside, dying inside. If I could, I would want to sit with Anna and just ask her, how she managed, how she did it. For those who are married, as you took your vows and you got to till death do us part, you never think it will be just a few years but rather many many years and here we hear of Anna is losing her husband after only 7 years of marriage. Living life as a widow dedicated and believing in a word that just seems like it will not come to pass.

Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna I believe persevered despite their challenges and circumstances because they had and continued to nature their relationship with God. We have many examples in the bible of such people who were given the word by God like Abraham who at old age had Isaac. Abraham was blessed and he too still had challenges but depended on God and

the relationship he had with him. They were anchored in God, by God's love for them and their love for him. They knew God for themselves and knew He is not man that he should lie (Numbers 23:19). Having God on our side, being known by God and having the Holy Spirit does not mean life is now perfect, does not mean we stop doing the work, or that we do not experience challenges sometimes. It means God enables us to stay hopeful, faithful and loving. It means His love in us gives us the strength to persevere even if the very things we are praying for are not or seem as if are not coming, when society bruises us, when the news angers us.

The bishop-elect entered the cathedral and were presented as the appointed people for the office of Bishop and left consecrated and ready to serve their roles. The people they will serve gathered and celebrated because they have faith, they believe that they will do the work not based on their strength but on God. Jesus was taken to the temple and was presented before the Lord. Even though Simeon did not see Jesus save people he was content and sang Lord now let thy servant depart in peace, Anna spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. For them just seeing the baby Jesus was enough. They were confident that the work, the act, redemption had arrived, and God would fulfil his promises. Yes, it would be in 30 years, but it will happen. Maybe Simeon would die before Jesus starts his work, but it was enough for him. They knew it was in God's hands and because it is in God hands he would deliver on his promises.

Presentation is great, people gather, we wear our best clothes, but the work happens afterwards. I love the words that are often said at the end of the service for us to go and love and serve the Lord. We come, we present ourselves and we celebrate the Eucharist, but the real work begins when we leave those doors. The serving happens in our homes, workplaces, with our friends and family, in our communities and cities and we cannot do it unless we allow God's love to flow through us. The same love that saw Jesus go the cross for us. We can do anything and everything but if we are not coming from a position of love then we have nothing and are nothing and what we do will not have the same effect.

1 Corinthians 13 tells us all about this love and from verse 4 gives us a list of things for us to reflect on: Are you patient? Are you kind? Do you envy? Do you boast? Are you proud? Do you dishonour others? Are you self-seeking? Are you easily angered? Do you keep a record of wrongs? Do you delight in evil or you rejoice in truth? Do you protect, trust, hope and persevere?

So today as we too present ourselves, what internal work do we need to do, in what areas of our lives do we need to ask the Lord to help us grow in? The work starts within us before it goes out. At Christmas we opened our hearts and welcomes Jesus into our hearts and homes and communities. Are we also open to the work that needs to happen within us? I hope the answers we got set us in the right direction of the things we need to ask God to help us in so we too remain hopeful, faithful and loving despite the challenges that we might encounter.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

We affirm our faith

At home, if able, we stand and turn in the direction of Church, where we also stand to affirm our faith:

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith in God revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All: **We believe and trust in God the Father,
Source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist.**

We believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again.

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.
She gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the word.**

(cf Proverbs 8:1)

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(adapted from Common Worship)

INTERCESSIONS *offered by Liz Haskins*

In confidence that God will hear the prayers of His children, let us pray.

We pray for the church, that she may have faith, the faith of the prophets who continually foretold good times to come; the faith of Simeon and Anna, whose patience was rewarded; the faith of Mary and Joseph, who put complete trust in God. We do not ask to move mountains, but that we may be strong in the faith that we have.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray that the refiner's fire may sweep though our world, purifying it from all prejudice and oppression— racial prejudice that believes that some are inferior, so that they are oppressed; the prejudice that oppresses girls and women, denying them education and careers; the religious prejudice that oppresses some by not allowing them to worship as they wish. (cf Malachi 3, one of the alternative readings for today.)

But there are good things happening, and so let us pray for Australia and New Zealand who proved to be good neighbours, quickly leading the efforts to provide succour to the people of Tonga. May this remind us all that we are equal sharers of this planet and have equal rights to the goodwill of others.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Often as we are at worship we hear the siren of an emergency vehicle passing. These are the people who truly follow the example of Christ, devoting their lives to the service of others, going out at all times of the day or night, in all kinds of weather, facing danger and even meeting death. Let us pray for them now, and every time we hear their warning, for their safety and the wellbeing of those to whom they minister.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those known to use who are sick, infirm or frail. Jesus in human form experienced the full range of the human condition, He knew anxiety, got tired, felt pain. We pray that He may visit with His compassion those who are worried about the results of tests and a diagnosis, those who have a painful illness or condition, those for whom life is just wearisome. May He offer them the courage and strength that they need.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died. Jesus knew the sorrow of bereavement, He wept for his friend Lazarus. We pray that He, who came to defeat death, may be with those who mourn, bringing them comfort and reassurance.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PEACE

We pause to remember each other: those worshipping at home, and those worshipping in Church, and those we care for whom we cannot visit.

Deacon: In the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace. We say to one another:

(cf Luke 1:78-79)

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

HYMN I, the Lord of sea and sky

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

(words & music: Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 6)

The Table is prepared in Church. At home, now is the time to say the Lord's Prayer (below) and consume the food and drink you have prepared, first praying:

God, we long for Communion. With this symbolic meal stir my hope for the fellowship meal we cannot yet see, and help me wait for it with patience. **Amen.**

(cf Romans 8:2)

We celebrate God's faithfulness

In Church we stand, if able, for the Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity. For on this day he appeared in the Temple in substance of our flesh to come near to us in judgement. He searched the hearts of all your people and brings to light the image of your splendour. Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as a light to lighten the nations while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption. Destined for the falling and rising of many he was lifted high upon the cross and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you. And now we rejoice and glorify your name that we, too, have seen your salvation and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise.

All:
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, we bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

A bell is rung

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

A bell is rung

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did. In him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died,

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **Though we are many, we are one body.
For we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you. Eat in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us your peace. (x2)

We pause to remember all who pray at home, then share the bread and wine, now for us the body and blood of Christ.

SONG during Communion

1. "Let me now depart in peace,
to my passing reconciled –
thankful, e'er my life should cease,
to have seen the holy child.

2. "Jesus, hope of ev'ry nation,
dawn of God's eternal day:
sent to offer us salvation,
he himself shall light the way.

3. "Lord, your servants long have waited,
trusting you to keep your word:
now our faith is vindicated
for these eyes have seen the Lord!"

4. Glory be to God the Father,
glory to his royal Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
praise for ever God as One.

(words & music: Michael Perry alt, arr Christian Strover)

A POST COMMUNION PRAYER may be said.

We are sent out

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with your Word [and with the body of Christ]. Strengthen us in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path. **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart. **Amen.**

Christ the dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN Praise to the Holiest

1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.
2. O loving wisdom of our God!
when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight,
and to the rescue came.
3. O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail.
4. And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all divine.
5. And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.
6. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

(words: John Henry Newman; music: Melody adapted from Thomas Haweis; descant: L Stilwell)

Deacon: Go in in the light and peace of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



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