

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Sunday after Ascension Holy Communion

Sunday 29th May 2022

We gather

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.

We imagine everyone in their homes around the parish, united in preparing for prayer.

Music as we gather: [God has gone up with a shout of rejoicing](#)

*God has gone up with a shout of rejoicing:
he has ascended in glory!
O clap your hands, clap your hands all you people:
he has ascended in glory!*

1. Great is the Lord and how great is his kingdom,
rooted in heaven and earth.
Ruler on high over all of the nations,
Lord over all of the world.

2. All of the nations assemble before him:
all of the rich and the poor.
All of his servants rejoice in his justice,
singing his praise evermore.

3. Praise to our Lord, O sing praise to our Saviour,
praise to our God and our King!
Worthy the Lamb who was slain and is risen:
glory and honour to him.

(words & music: David Lee, based on Psalm 47)

When the song finishes we stand in silence. We sing: [Hail the day that sees him rise](#)

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, *Alleluia!*
to his throne above the skies; *Alleluia!*
Christ the Lamb, for sinners giv'n, *Alleluia!*
enters now the highest heav'n! *Alleluia!*

2. There for him high triumph waits; *Alleluia!*
lift your heads, eternal gates! *Alleluia!*
He hath conquered death and sin; *Alleluia!*
take the King of Glory in! *Alleluia!*

3. Circed round with angel-pow'rs, *Alleluia!*
their triumphant Lord and ours; *Alleluia!*
wide unfold the radiant scene, *Alleluia!*
take the King of Glory in! *Alleluia!*

4. Lo, the heav'n its Lord receives, *Alleluia!*
yet he loves the earth he leaves; *Alleluia!*
though returning to his throne, *Alleluia!*
calls the human race his own. *Alleluia!*

5. Lord, though parted from our sight, *Alleluia!*
far above the starry height, *Alleluia!*
grant our hearts may thither rise, *Alleluia!*
seeking thee above the skies. *Alleluia!*

(words: Charles Wesley, Thomas Cotterill & others alt; music: Robert Williams)

We acclaim:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

WELCOME, BANNS and NOTICES

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

CONFESSION

Deacon: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to God and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION *In church forgiveness is declared for all while at home we pray:*

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, time for amendment of life and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA

1. Glory be to God in heaven,
songs of praise and joy we bring;
thankful hearts and voices raising,
to creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you: Lord we bless you:
glory be to God our King;
glory be to God our King.

2. Lamb of God who on your shoulders
bore the load of this world's sin:
only Son of God the Father
you have brought us peace within.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,
now your glorious reign begin;
now your glorious reign begin.

3. You O Son of God are holy,
you we praise with one accord:
none in heaven or earth is like you,
only you are Christ the Lord:
with the Father and the Spirit
ever worshipped and adored;
ever worshipped and adored.

THE COLLECT for the Sunday after Ascension

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS [Acts 16:16-34](#) and [Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21](#)

SONG [My Jesus, my Saviour](#)

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength,
let ev'ry breath, all that I am,
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
For ever I'll love you, for ever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

(words & music: Darlene Zschech)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [John 17:20-26](#)

All: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON from Tariro

Throughout the Gospels, we have encountered Jesus teaching on forgiveness, Jesus healing and performing miracles, Jesus welcoming those marginalised and sitting and eating with those who are not worth at least by the standards of those who thought they had the right to choose and to judge. Today we encounter Jesus doing something different.

How many of us have written a will or heard one being read? If you have not, not to worry. The movie industry has made sure that those of us who have not written or heard one being read can see what that is like. I do not think any 2 wills can be the same or that the response to the reading is ever the same. If you are into family, comedy and romance you can watch *The Ultimate gift* (PG), if you are into comedy, family, and fantasy watch *Mr Poppers Penguins* (PG) or if you are into adventure, family, and fantasy you can watch *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* (12A). I am sure you can find other movies with the help of Google.

You see, in a will, you get to hear a person's wishes for the future, the fulfilment of promises they might have made to you and their desires while they are gone. In our reading from John today, Jesus, is saying what he wants or desires and what he has given, and it is a conversation that he is having with the Father in a prayer, a prayer that is no longer private like the other times when he has gone out to pray early in the morning (Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12). This time the disciples can hear him and we too through what has been written.

This is coming after the disciples have confessed in the previous chapter when he had been speaking to them by saying: "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." (John 16: 29-30) Jesus had then said, "You believe at last!"

Jesus is at that point where he has taught all he could and done all he could but now is facing death and at that point its about the important stuff. You know when you have limited time to do something, your priorities will come first, or you start doing things in the order of what most important. The house might be dirty but if your bus is coming at 10, you leave the cleaning for when you come back so you do not miss the bus.

There were people that needed healing because we know later in other books like *The Acts of the Apostle* that Peter and John had an encounter with a man crippled from birth and he gets healed. So, it was not that there were no other things that needed doing but that this stage here, this moment was important and so were the words in the prayer, in this will that Jesus was doing.

I do not know about you but for me, as much as I can pray for myself, I take great comfort from hearing others say there are praying for me or hearing them pray just as the disciples

were hearing in this moment. It fills me with warmth, makes me feel that I am loved, I am amongst those who care, it strengthens me, and others say it is a confidence boost. Now imagine Jesus praying for you!

Jesus has prayed for himself, has prayed for his disciples, and then stopped and thought there shall be many others even before we became, before we believed and I have great faith in them, those believers who will come 2000 plus years later so now I shall pray for them too. My brothers and sisters, we are loved far beyond what our minds can comprehend. The Lord himself set time aside to pray for us. He goes on further to say, 'I have given them the glory that you gave me' but most importantly 'that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you'.

One of Jesus' greatest wishes was for us to be united, to be one. When we look around the world we live in right now, that is the one thing that we are failing at. Siblings cannot be together in the same house or gathering, churches are divided so much that members of the same church will have services or attend different services just so that they are not in the same space. People are moving to different countries because the hatred is so deep, they have to put an ocean between them. Country leaders are willing to go to war and watch thousands of people die because they cannot get what they want and refuse to work towards unity. Countries and leaders would rather sit and watch as thousands of people die due to curable diseases when they have the medication and the means to provide because rather than be united with others they have chosen the individualistic approach to life and leadership where they will only concern themselves with those things that only affect them. These are people who claim to be Christians, to be believers of the one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We have become blind to the fact that we might all look different and speak different languages and live in different countries but we are all children of the same heavenly father. When we hear the creation story there is nowhere where it says and the God of England created the English first man, or where it says the God of the African continent made the first African man or the God of Asia created the first Asian man. 1 Corinthians 12 tells us that we are one body but many parts. We all need each other. We need to be united. We need to be one.

In the words of Martin Luther King, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' And so we ought to come together fighting for, rather than each other but most importantly praying for one another. If Jesus could, surely, we should too, continually without ceasing. We are the gospel as believers, we are constantly preaching a message as believers just as Jesus did and the first apostles and that has been passed down through generations to us. This message of Christ does not see differences in us but sees us as one. Our reading from Acts last week and this week presents us with that truth:

Paul in last week's passage (Acts 16:9 – 15) speaks and Lydia and her household end up being baptised becoming believers themselves. Today, we heard about the slave girl who had the spirit that enabled her to tell the future who followed Paul and his companions until Paul

commanded the spirit to leave. We also heard about the Roman jailer who having witnessed the power of prayer through Paul and Silas also believed together with his household and were baptised. This demonstrates for us the power of the Gospel, that it can penetrate hearts of people from different walks of life as these three were as gentiles, slaves and women.

We as Christians, as believers ought to stand united, to be one regardless of where we are in the world. We as a church have a mission just as Jesus did and passed on all the teachings to the apostle and we through their message have become believers also. We have to also pass on the message so all people will be in unity with God and each other in Christ. Sometimes I believe those who are not believers have a better understanding of this message more that we do. Have you seen when they are issues in the world, they look to the church to see what the church's response is? While the world may be divided by many things and subjects, the church or rather I should say believers, we should be one and have God's movement of unity.

We are after all God's chosen 1, a people for his own possession that we may proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light (Peter 2:9). Christ continues to choose us and wants us to be with him where he is. In John 17:24, Jesus makes that request to the father that 'I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.' And we know that before we were formed in the womb God knew us (Jeremiah 1:5). He says he is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Wouldn't we want to be amongst the blessed that will have the right to the tree of life and be able to enter the city by the gates?

Jesus has not given up on us as he says in revelation that he has sent his angel with this testimony for the churches. He continues to send many others who teach and preach to us, many miracles to which we are witnesses today because he wants all of us to be believers but not only that but that through us many others will also become believers. For us to go out and say come to many others and for us to open our doors as we say welcome to others who are becoming believers.

On Thursday we celebrated the ascension of Jesus who is seated at the right hand of the father and now we are in those 10 days as we wait with prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit and scripture tells us that just as Jesus promised many years ago, there was a fulfilment of his word as we will hear next Sunday. This ought to fill us with confidence that this prayer that Jesus did for us holds and just as in a will, we ought to strive and do all that we can to be in unity with one another because when we do, many will believe and when they do, they will also believe in Christ whom God sent, a show of his love and greatest desire that with Him be one.

We affirm our faith

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All: I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the Faith of the Church

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

INTERCESSIONS from Magdalen Gorringe

Radiant God,
Morning Star,

Your ascension unmasks the pitiful claim to power of the crucifixion; the pathetic tawdriness of the wish to hurt and harm; the embarrassing hollowness of destruction.

In a world that aches at the vicious harms inflicted by the piteous pursuit of power, may the light of Your ascension give us hope. Not to those who claim might, but to You who disowned it, belongs the power and the glory.

God, Morning Star,
Shine Your light on us.

Disruptive God,

We pray for Your Church here and across the world. Too often the Church, in loving itself, forgets to love You. We pray especially today for the Russian Orthodox Church, seduced by the promise of power to sacrifice her soul. Chase out the false idols from Your church so that we may better discern what it means to truly serve You.

God, Morning Star,
Shine Your light on us.

Crucified God,

You know the desolation and abandonment of pain and grief. Shine Your face on those who suffer. Hold them close in their despair. We think of the primary school children and their teachers murdered in Texas. We can hardly bear to think of the terror of their last moments; of the devastation of their families struggling to comprehend their loss. Grieving and ashamed we bring before You the too many ways in which we forget life's sanctity and maim others' lives with fear. We pray for the women deprived of their rights in Afghanistan. For the Palestinians facing the oppression imposed by the state of Israel. For those facing civil war in Tigray in Ethiopia. For those facing food and energy shortages in Sri Lanka. For the people of Ukraine. Turn our anger and our pain into strength to take a stand for You and for Life in this historical moment. Give us courage and discernment to find meaningful ways to confront the corruption, the cruelty and the hubris that deface Your Creation.

God, Morning Star,
Shine Your light on us.

Rebellious God,

The gospel teaches us of the joy You took in life. In the value You placed on companionship and sharing food. Teach us the power of Your rebellious joy. We thank You for the support, the teaching and the joy we receive from each other here at All Saint's. May we constantly learn to love each other better, always compassionate but never complacent as we grow together in the mystery of faith.

God, Morning Star,
Shine Your light on us.

We bring before you those in our own community suffering with illness, or oppressed by anxiety and fear. We remember especially Ruth Tetlow, Mike Cheeseborough and Iain Galloway. We pray for the families of Bill Gardner and Julia McCabe whose funerals were held last week. In a moment of silence we bring before You any known to us who are in especial need of Your comfort and Your peace. May those who are thirsty find the free gift of the water of life.

God, Morning Star,
Shine Your light on us.

God our Alpha and our Omega
Our Radiant Star,
Our Abba and our Amma,

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 who are far away.

Deacon: God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia. So, with joy we say to one each other:
The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

(cf 2 Corinthians 1:22)

HYMN [Alleluia, sing to Jesus](#)

1. Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus, out of ev'ry nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2. Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3. Alleluia, bread of angels,
here on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
come to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4. Alleluia, King eternal,
he the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth his footstool, heav'n his throne;
he within the veil has entered
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
he on earth both priest and victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

*(words: William Chatterton Dix, alt editors of 'Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New';
music: Rowland Huw Pritchard, arr Ralph Vaughan Williams)*

*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 tell the story of salvation

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: 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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give
you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all
into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church the
grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit. He is the one who has gone
before us, who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the
upper room while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of
Pentecost. Therefore all creation years with eager longing as angels and
archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

We repeat after the cantor:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord!
God of power and God of might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord most high.
Hosanna. Hosanna. 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.

**All: Great is the mystery of faith:
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.

All: 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 and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died and now lives for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

We sing: **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. We form two lines to receive bread, then wine if you wish. No one should feel obliged if you do not feel ready to share the common cup. Receiving only bread you still make your Communion fully and deeply. Do what feels most comfortable to you.

If anyone prefers not to receive either, you are welcome still to come forward for a prayer of blessing. Just keep your hands by your sides and we will pray for you.

SONG during Communion

1. Sing to the world of Christ our sovereign Lord,
tell of his birth which brought new life to all.
Speak of his life, his love, his holy word;
let every nation hear and know his call.
Sing to the world of Christ our sovereign Lord.

2. Sing to the world of Christ the Prince of Peace,
showing to us the Father's loving care,
pleading that love should reign and wars might cease,
teaching we need the love of God to share.
Sing to the world of Christ the Prince of Peace.

3. Sing to the world of Christ our steadfast friend,
offering himself to live the constant sign,
food for our souls until we meet life's end,
gives us his flesh for bread, his blood for wine.
Sing to the world of Christ our steadfast friend.

4. Sing to the world of Christ our Saviour King,
Born that his death that world's release should win.
Hung on a cross, forgiveness he could bring;
buried, he rose to conquer death and sin.
Sing to the world of Christ our Saviour King.

5. Sing to the world of Christ at God's right hand,
praise to the Spirit both have sent from heaven.
Living in us till earth shall reach its span,
time be no more, and Christ shall come again.
Sing to the world of Christ at God's right hand.

(words: Patrick Lee; music: Ernest Sands, arr Paul Inwood)

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

May the God of hope fill *us* with all joy and peace in believing, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

HYMN

[Give us the wings of faith](#)

1. Give us the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

2. Once they were mourning here below,
their couch was wet with tears;
they wrestled hard, as we do now,
with sins and doubts and fears.

3. We ask them whence their vict'ry came:
they, with united breath,
ascribe the conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his Death.

4. They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast,
and, foll'wing their incarnate God,
they reached the promised rest.

5. Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern giv'n;
while the great cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heav'n. *(words: Isaac Watts alt; music: John Joubert)*

We acclaim:

Deacon: Christ has gone up on high.

Alleluia!

God raised Christ from the dead

and enthroned him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

God put all things in subjection beneath his feet

and gave him as head over all things to the Church.

We died and our life is hidden with Christ in God.

We set our minds on things above.

(Ephesians 1:20-23)

Christ has gone up on high.

Alleluia!



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