

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

All God's Children Holy Communion

Father's Day, Sunday 19th June 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. Perhaps light a candle as you begin worship.

In church, we imagine everyone in their homes around the parish, united in preparing for prayer.

Music as we gather:

1. An army of ordinary people, a kingdom where love is the key,
a city, a light to the nations, heirs to the promise are we.
A people whose life is in Jesus, a nation together we stand.
Only through grace are we worthy, inheritors of the land.

*A new day is dawning, a new age to come,
when the children of promise shall flow together as one:
a truth long neglected, but the time has now come,
when the children of promise shall flow together as one.*

2. A people without recognition, but with him a destiny sealed,
called to a heavenly vision: his purpose shall be fulfilled.
Come, let us stand strong together, abandon ourselves to the King.
His love shall be ours for ever, this vict'ry song we shall sing.

(words & music: Dave Bilbrough)

When the song finishes we stand in silence, ready to sing [For the healing of the nations](#)

1. For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

(words: Fred Kaan; music: 'Essay on the Church Plain Chant' [1782])

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 pray for the children's groups as they make their way to their groups.

We seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

Deacon: We confess our sins to God, who created, redeems and sustains us.

Silence

For the distorted versions of fatherhood that inhibit us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

For the ungrateful versions of childhood that inhibit us:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

For the suffocating versions of family that inhibit us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

*May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us
in his image, to the praise and glory of his name. Amen.*

We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA

Glory! Glory! Glory to God!
Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

1. Glory to God in the heights of the heavens.
Peace to God's people, all people on earth.
2. Son of the Father, all glory and worship;
praise and thanksgiving to you, Lamb of God.
3. You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.
4. Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.
5. And with the Spirit of love everlasting,
reigning in glory for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Priest: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you: mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We sit for the READINGS Isaiah 65:1-9

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=522559277>

and Galatians 3:23-end <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=522559313>

HYMN [As the deer pants for the water](#)

1. As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you!*

2. I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy;
you alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

3. You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything!

(words & music: Martin Nystrom, arr John Barnard)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING Luke 8:26-39

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=522559360>

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON from Tariro

A few weeks ago, we celebrated Mother's Day on mothering Sunday and today we are celebrating all the men here, fathers, fathers to be, guardians, as it is Father's Day. To the women, you can pinch me later if I am just about to betray us all, but I want to think we got the better deal when it comes to parenthood. I want to believe as the ones who get pregnant, God bought us time to get used to the real-life changes of having a new baby become a part of us, to not just see the changes but experience them, to see as the clothes become small and the cravings become even more weird. Slowly we become 'someone' that our husbands, partners, fathers, brothers and even friends do not understand. And God bless them, they start just giving us what we want, stop arguing with us and become wise enough not to mention our hormones within earshot while also trying to wrap their heads around becoming a father or an uncle. For some it was instant, no preparation time given, and you became a foster dad, or adopted and the scenarios of becoming a father figure are all different.

I want to believe there is a distinct difference between how our fathers and mothers love us and for men they have to try harder because when the baby needs breastfeeding it's from the mum and they nurse the baby to sleep offering comfort and so it is not surprising that the baby will be able to say the word mum before dad in most cases. That does not mean the father does not love their child, they do but at that young age we understand more the one who has immediate care and offers us the comfort we seek most, milk, dry pampers and cuddles. Sometimes when we are feeding, we will be eyeing the big giant sitting opposite who is the protector, sometimes the sole provider for the family and sometimes we do not see him because he has gone to work but those are things we often understand later.

I grew up in a context where the men in my life be it at school, church, in the community were my fathers and guardians so much that sometimes remembering names was harder if not offensive to them so I would just call them Baba, a Shona 'name' meaning father. They would however feel protective over us, discipline us, intervene when quarrels happen and sometimes cut play time and tell us to go home – all the things we do not like but well meant. For holding that care, standing up for us, doing your best even when it was not seen or understood, providing and many other things, to all the men, Thank you and Happy Father's Day.

Jesus in our reading today encounters a man demon possessed who had not worn clothes or lived in a house but had lived in the tombs (Lk 8:27). Today I want to touch not so much on what Jesus did which is to restore him but how he treated him. Yes, he was possessed with not just one demon but a legion of them. A legion was a Roman army of six thousand soldiers. It was a symbol of power. So, this man when asked what his name was, he says 'Legion' because many demons had entered him, and he had so much power that even the chains that they put on him were not strong enough to hold him down.

This man could have been a John, or a Stan, or a Michael. He could have been a father, a brother, a husband but he had lost his identity. The demons had assumed his identity. He had become just a host. In those times, your name was your identity. Have you ever seen it how there are certain characteristics that are expected based on your name? Maybe it is stereotyping but I have heard people say every Peter that I have met is like this or stay away from people called ABC, they are the worst. Something about a name, an identity. It mattered. However, at that point people had started to use descriptions about him, demon possessed man, I am sure some even called him crazy.

They were not different from us when we label people we do not understand, when we start calling people by their sins or shortcomings. We know they have a name, but we would rather call them a crazy person; we know that what he has done is not who he is called and yet we would rather call him 'the thief'; yes, he has shortcomings and is not perfect but instead of saying a name we would rather call him a dead-beat and the list goes on.

Jesus when he saw this man who identified him as Jesus, Son of the Most High God, he asked him his name. He had the power and Legion says so and with that power Jesus could have treated him anyhow, called him names because after all, there was nothing the demon could do to Jesus, but He instead treated him recognising that there could be a demon, but he was still a person, a man who also needed kindness and to be restored. I am sure from the description of him that we have heard there are many other undesirable habits the demon caused him to have and do but those became a minor as Jesus focussed on his personhood.

While the people ran away because of fear, Jesus proceeds to draw him close. It says when they came back, they found him dressed and in his right mind sitting at Jesus' feet but for them it was too much. He had strayed away from what they expected, what was the norm. He had been the unclean but all of a sudden, he had been restored. I wonder what questions were in their heads. Maybe it was how he could be one of them again? Or that maybe the demon would come again. This is a world where all they have known about the unclean, those who are outcast is that they never return to society. They live away until the end of their days and when the man asks to go with Jesus, he instead tells him to return home and tell how much God has done for you. And he told everyone who could hear.

Jesus treats him as a child of God. He did not seek Jesus as is said in our Isaiah reading (vs 1) but Jesus found him, Jesus held his hands to those who sit among the graves as did Legion, those who

say 'Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too sacred for you!' (vs5). While the demon had to go, Jesus did not destroy the man too but instead blessed him, restoring him. Galatians 3 vs 26 then adds on that in Christ Jesus we are all children of God through faith. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

While it might be nice to gloss over things or easy to preach on this Father's Day about having perfect relationships with our fathers or those who have that role in our lives, please allow me to be real. Not all of us have great relationships with our fathers. Maybe you have failed to be the father that your children expected or wanted you to be or maybe to be the one you thought you would be. Some of us might not even know where our fathers are or fathers where your children are. Maybe some choices made were based on the knowledge we had then. Maybe the demon causing legion to live in solitary places was protection for the family. Maybe there are many things that we do not know that might have hurt us but were done to protect us. Maybe there were misunderstandings and relationships were broken. Maybe it is even too late to be able to restore that relationship or have that conversation because they have passed on.

One thing for sure is when we run to Jesus, he is in the business of restorations. Restoration of relationships and enabling reconciliation to happen. It will not be a one size fits all. The restoration of this man demon possessed was unique to him and so will our stories. Above all regardless of the situation you never cease to be loved by God, by the father, the one from whom we learn a fathers love from. To him its not about what you have done or failed to do. To him you still matter, and he will call you by name. He will celebrate you. He gives us all another chance.

Another thing for sure, not everyone is perfect. We all have our shortcomings and maybe our reading today is coming to remind us that. Remind those who are fathers or father figures of the fathers love towards his children. Remind us as children that these man or guardians we have or had, loved and love us and is asking us to look back on this day to something we can appreciate and be thankful for, celebrate with them and or say a prayer of thanksgiving. That most do the best they know how. Our fathers just as God, want the best for us, to succeed, to be happy, to flourish, for us to be a good addition to society and communities we live in and have a strong faith.

May we be like Jesus and be able to show kindness even when we have the power to destroy and when we cannot show kindness of our own strength, may he grant us that strength.

As I end, I leave these words from Jude 1: 24 - 25

"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling,
and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory in great joy,
to God our Saviour, who alone is wise,
be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
both now and forever. Amen."

We affirm our faith

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Deacon: We stand, if able, to affirm our faith in God our creator, redeemer and sustainer:

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 Des Workman

Give thanks to God today, with a grateful heart, humble mind and willing spirit. Let us Pray

Almighty God, in a time of recession, rising costs and people fearful of where they will find money from to pay bills, let those of us who are fortunate to have sufficient resources help our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. We pray for our politicians and leaders to promote policies and resources that give fair shares to all. We pray that they will use their powers wisely, justly, fairly, equitably while remembering their moral obligations. Lord in Your mercy - **hear our prayer**

We give thanks Lord that we are fortunate in having Asylum Seekers in our congregation who have received permission to stay and work and to make this Country their home. We thank you for the joy and benefit they have brought to our congregation. We bring to you in prayer those being trafficked across Europe, those on small boats in the channel and we ask that you help our leaders to think of better, more just ways of helping and not wasting £100000's pound on planes to Rwanda. Lord in Your Mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those struggling with mental health issues, depression and those who feel marginalised and not at ease with society. Give them strength, fortitude and courage to know that they are loved and held in your arms. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Help us Lord to not to feel downhearted and annoyed when we read of racism and bullying in sport, of rail strikes and airline cancellations, of ambulances unable to deliver patients into hospital but stuck in queues outside. Be our guide and our light - you showed us that our time on this planet is limited but with the promise of eternal life. Help us as Christians to be compassionate and thoughtful to follow your leadership, be good Christians in our practice and words so together we can be a community of faith and support. Lord in your Mercy- **hear our prayer**

Lord you are the truth, the way and the light- as false news abounds as Russia denies it is at war with Ukraine, as some countries deny climate change, as some people say there is no need for food banks. Help us Lord to not turn away from you, teach us your ways that we might always follow you as the true light and saviour. Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We bring to you those young people doing exams, at this stressful time for them. Shine on them and let them know that they are loved and valued. We think of those planning holidays and a break but we also remember those who cannot or will not be going away, may your love surround them. Lord in your mercy- **hear our prayer**

Dear Lord comfort and heal those who suffer in body mind or spirit. We remember those who are house bound such as Margaret Shepherd, Sheila Prain and Dorothy Jones and others known to us. Give them courage and hope. Bring them the joy of your salvation. We also bring to mind those who are sick such as Sylvia Mogg.

We remember those who have died including our sister Dilys Prescott whose ashes have been interred in the Memorial garden this morning. May we all move beyond the fear of death's sting to the welcome promise of transformation that it holds for us.

"May God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church and the World peace and concord, and to us sinners, eternal life."
(from a prayer on the West wall at Westminster Abbey)

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 who are far away.

Deacon: Our saviour Christ is the prince of peace. We meet in his name and share his peace. We say to one another:
The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

SONG [Give thanks with a grateful heart](#)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us. *(repeat)*
Give thanks. *(words & music: Henry Smith)*

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death, and so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you and saying:

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 St Thomas and 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: [Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,](#)
have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

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 [Bread is blessed and broken](#)

1. Bread is blessed and broken, wine is blessed and poured:
take this and remember Christ the Lord.
2. Share the food of heaven earth cannot afford.
Here is grace in essence – Christ the Lord.
3. Know yourself forgiven, find yourself restored,
meet a friend for ever – Christ the Lord.
4. God has kept his promise sealed by sign and word:
here, for those who want him – Christ the Lord.

(words & music: John L Bell & Graham Maule)

We are sent out

All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that, when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Priest: *[May]* The peace of God which passes all understanding keep *our* hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

HYMN [Christ is made the sure foundation](#)

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2. To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
you have promised loving kindness,
hear your servants as we pray,
bless your people now before you,
turn our darkness into day.

3. Hear the cry of all your people,
what they ask and hope to gain;
what they gain from you, for ever
with your chosen to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

4. Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
One in might and One in glory,
while unending ages run.

*(words: 'Urbs beata Jerusalem' [c7th century], trans John Mason Neale alt;
music: Henry Purcell, arr E Hawkins)*

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ, Amen.



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