

Morning Prayer

at home with your
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Sunday 17th July 2022

Preparation

You may wish to mark your time of worship by arranging a table with a cloth, a candle and your Bible, or anything, such as flowers, that makes it a special reflective space.

Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.

HYMN [Follow me](#)

*Follow me, follow me, leave your home and family,
leave your fishing nets and boats upon the shore.
Leave the seed you have sown, leave the crops that you've grown,
leave the people you have known and follow me.*

1. The foxes have their holes and the swallows have their nests,
but the Son of Man has no place to lie down,
I do not offer comfort, I do not offer wealth,
but in me will all happiness be found.

2. If you would follow me, you must leave old ways behind.
You must take my cross and follow on my path.
You may be far from loved ones, you may be far from home,
but my Father will welcome you at last.

3. Although I go away you will never be alone,
for the Spirit will be there to comfort you.
Though all of you may scatter, each follow his own path,
still the Spirit of love will lead you home.

(words: Michael Cockett; music: Cuddy Madeleine, arr Donald Thomson)

At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us.

We take this time, united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may find new ways to serve God.

Prayers of Penitence

We confess:

Almighty God, long suffering and of great goodness:
we confess to you,
we confess with our whole heart,
our neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
our wrong doing, thinking and speaking;
the hurts we have done to others and the good we have left undone.
O God, forgive us, for we have sinned against you;
and raise us to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

We pray for forgiveness:

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song we will praise our God.

The Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT READING [Genesis 18:1-10a](#)

PSALM 15 *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honour those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

GOSPEL READING [Luke 10:38-42](#)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around the precious, shared poetry of the Apostles' Creed, God revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

We pray THE COLLECT for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven...

FOR REFLECTION

Consider the Martha in you, your practical side that quite likes to be busy; your sense of justice; the part of you that likes to serve hidden away, but then is a little hurt when not acknowledged.

Consider the Mary in you, your reflective side; the aspect of you that could fall in love, be devoted to something or get lost in something to the exclusion of anything else.

How far are they at peace with each other within you?

Read John chapter 11, watching how Martha and Mary interact and how, this time, Martha brings Mary back to Jesus. Consider siblings or family members among whom you have known tension. You might be amused by Abraham telling Sarah the recipe for the cakes he wants her to make. How irritating that must have been, as if she hadn't made them before. How far is it possible to see our different characters and enthusiasms as us each bringing different gifts to the table that might be of help at different times?

We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:

We pray for all whose vocation is to cook, serve, clear away that others may converse. Remembering Mary at the feet of Jesus, the posture of a disciple learning to become a teacher, we pray for all whose vocation is to teach; all who are students and pupils marking the end of term.

For any events in the news where Martha energy and practicality is desperately needed, and any crises where Mary's reflective quality and patient listening, searching for wisdom, is needed.

HYMN

[Praise to the Lord, the Almighty](#)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation.
All ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near;
joining in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in us adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the "Amen"
sound from his people again,
gladly for ay we adore him.

(words: Joachim Neander, trans Catherine Winkworth; music: from 'Praxis Pietatis Melica' [1668])

Imagining all whom we miss, we pray for each other:

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England

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