

# Morning Prayer

at home with your  
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## A better country? Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 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** [The Lord's my shepherd](#)

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green. He leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

my dwelling-place shall be.

2 My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark  
vale,  
yet will I fear no ill.  
For thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou has furnishèd  
in presence of my foes,  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me.  
And in God's house for evermore

*(words: Psalm 23 from 'The Scottish Psalter' [1650];  
music: Brother James Leith Macbeth Bain, arr Christopher Tambling)*

*At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us. Today we particularly pray for Harrison, Joy and Blessings bringing David for baptism.*

*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:*

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (cf Hosea 6)

*We keep silence, then pray:*

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

## The Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 15:1-6 [*Click here for text:*

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=526609941> ]

PSALM 33:12-end

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The LORD looks down from heaven;  
he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches  
all the inhabitants of the earth—  
he who fashions the hearts of them all,  
and observes all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a vain hope for victory,  
and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
to deliver their soul from death,  
and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD;  
he is our help and shield.  
Our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.  
Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

GOSPEL READING Luke 12:32-40 [*click here for text:*  
<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=526609875> ]

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story, and declare our faith in God:*

**All: We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

(from Common Worship)

## Prayers

*We pray* THE COLLECT for the eighth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; 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

How prescient the Psalm the lectionary suggests for today. For we witness countries brandishing weapons, showing very clearly where they put their trust. China encircles Taiwan menacingly with what it calls "military drills."

In frantic and embarrassing efforts to out-do one another in cutting taxes, the Conservative leadership hopefuls see removing Green levies on the fuel industry as an easy measure. Abraham, meanwhile, gazes at the stars and imagines his unlikely descendants. Let us spend some time imagining the future human lives that may succeed ours. Then wonder whether, as financial, military and political machinations push the environment out of public attention, life may be ruined or made impossible for future generations. The image of countless stars may no longer apply.

Jesus reassures anyone who will hear that, whatever regime they live under, their heavenly Father counts them as citizens of his "Kingdom" where worry about what the state will take off you is not what governs your decisions. Rather, what can you eagerly do for your neighbour?

What might that kind of readiness look like in your life?

Consider what it means to desire a "better country"? (Hebrews 11:16) How might that desire spur us to make this a better country? What needs healing in the UK to make it more evocative of the heavenly kingdom?

*We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:*

Prompted by Psalm 33, In prayer, set alongside each other the Commonwealth Games, reaching their climax today and the deadly military games China and others play. In the confused, queasy feeling that contrast evokes, we pray for God's kingdom to come.

We hold before God the anguish, heart searching, medical care and legal scrutiny around the end of life care for Archie Battersbee and pray for all involved, especially his family.

We hold before God the very different end of life calculation in the summary execution by drone of an alleged terrorist in Afghanistan.

In the confused, queasy feeling that contrast evokes, we pray for God's kingdom to come.

Prompted by Jesus' two images of burglary, the thief stealing people's possessions and God, as thief, breaking in to our hearts, we hold before God the human jealousy that leads to stealing and the apparently more righteous jealousy that leads to self-protection, but leaves us cursed by fear of loss which burglar God wants to free us from. In the confused and queasy feeling this contrast evokes, we pray for God's kingdom to come.

HYMN [O Lord, all the world belongs to you](#)

1. O Lord, all the world belongs to you,  
and you are always making all things new.  
What is wrong you forgive, and the new life you give  
is what's turning the world upside down.
2. The world's only loving to its friends,  
but you have brought us love that never ends;  
loving enemies too, and this loving with you  
is what's turning the world upside down.

3. The world lives divided and apart.  
You draw us all together and we start,  
in your body, to see that in fellowship we  
can be turning the world upside down.
4. The world wants the wealth to live in state,  
but you show us a new way to be great:  
like a servant you came, and if we do the same,  
we'll be turning the world upside down.
5. O Lord, all the world belongs to you,  
and you are always making all things new.  
Send you Spirit on all in your Church, whom you call  
to be turning the world upside down.

*(words & music: Patrick Appleford, arr Andrew Moore)*

*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**

is copyright © the Archbishop's Council (2000)

