

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Holy Communion

Advent III Sunday 11th December 2022 at 10am

Our Advent liturgy expresses
sorrow for the world's suffering and human mistakes,
longing for God's help,
and hope for the future of earth and heaven.
We patiently prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth,
in whom God comes to work with us
for the healing of the world.

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 have two candles lit and another ready to light shortly.

We imagine anyone in their homes around the parish, and those gathering in church, united in preparing for prayer.

MUSIC *as we gather:*

1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Saviour,
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
4. Come, Hope of unity, make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

(words & music: Geonyong Lee, rev Marion Pope)

We stand for the first HYMN [Colours of day](#)

1. Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return,
take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

2. Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing our friend.

3. Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, and his Spirit is near.

(words & music: Sue McClellan, John Paculabo & Keith Ryecroft, arr Andrew Moore)

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

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 the Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Each Sunday we light one of the Advent candles to remember those who prepared
God's people for the coming of Christ. Now is the time to light your candle at home
if you have one.*

First Sunday – the Hebrew Fathers and Mothers of our Faith

Second Sunday – the Prophets

Third Sunday – John the Baptist

Fourth Sunday – the Virgin Mary



We pray: Passionate, yet practical, angry, yet hopeful, fierce, yet loving, bold, yet humble, we remember John the Baptist. We thank you for someone who looked corrupt leaders, soldiers, bureaucrats, and ordinary people in the eye and tell them how to turn around and find you again. As we light a candle to honour him, whatever our status, class or occupation, shine your revealing light on us and show us what specific steps will bring us nearer to you. We pray in the name of the one whom John prepared us to meet: Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We sing:

We shall plunge into the saving water,
ready to welcome Christ, the Prince of Justice.
We shall be reborn and rise to new life,
ready to welcome Christ, the Prince of Peace. (*sing twice*)

(words: Pierre-Marie Hoog & Robert B Kelly; music: Jacques Berthier)

We seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

Deacon: We anticipate Jesus' tribute to John the Baptist, confessing our distorted vision, asking for his restoration of divine perspective.

Silence

Jesus, where we have excluded the disfigured, the disabled or the poor among us, Lord, have mercy.

[Kyrie eleison.](#) X3(Lord, have mercy)

Where we have taken offence at your goodness, your sacrificial love, your radical teaching, Christ, have mercy.

Christe Eleison.

Where we have been seduced by celebrity and the trappings of power, Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison. (*music: Orthodox chant from Ukraine*)

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *us* to himself, and cleanse *us* from *our* sins that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We respond:

The ransomed of the Lord return.

We obtain joy and gladness.

Sorrow and sighing flee away.

(cf Isaiah 35:10)

THE COLLECT for the Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you, grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT READING [Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

PSALM 146:4-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

NEW TESTAMENT READING [James 5:7-10](#)

HYMN

[On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry](#)

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be ev'ry breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

(words: Charles Coffin, trans John Chandler alt; music: from 'Musikalisches Handbuch' [1690])

GOSPEL READING [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON in Church from Tariro

For those reflecting at home, hear Jesus description of famous people, whom the crowd and authorities may expect to find when they go out to see and hear the famous John the Baptist. Think about the trappings of celebrity today; what image people craft; what we expect of them how differently we might react to a person in a suit compared with a person in ragged clothes.

Then we remember John's message was sent from prison, so we can't help bringing to mind those in prison for speaking out, especially those being executed in Iran this very week, the court claiming their demonstrations and protest against the so called "morality police" were "at war with god."

Then hear Jesus' last words to the crowd (to paraphrase): "John is great, courageous, prophetic, and he is my cousin: but even the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he." In other words, God expects truth, courage, insight from us; he has high expectations of the difference we might make in our culture and time, as ordinary – very ordinary citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

We affirm our faith

At home, we stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, in Church we stand, to affirm our faith in God who comes among us in the person of Jesus:

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every other name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow.
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

(From Philippians chapter 2)

INTERCESSIONS *in Church are led by Liz Haskins*

At home, you are invited to spend time praying for those burdened with celebrity; for a healing of those who pursue it unhealthily; for a healing of our gleeful consumption of its myths and fantasies.

We pray with heavy hearts for those who are today joining John the Baptist as victims of capricious state violence. If you are able, try to pray for the religious leaders who are involved in the deadly decisions, and who provide religious rhetoric to justify them. (If you cannot stomach such prayer that is more than understandable.)

Then in quietness see what you can offer God of your insight, wisdom, experience and service in whatever community you live, however small the circle may seem to

you. See what it's like to accept God's ambitious expectations of the difference we can make.

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: In the tender mercy of our God the dawn from on high shall break 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.

(cf Luke 1:78-79)

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [Hark! a herald voice is calling](#)

1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:
"Christ is nigh!" it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"
2. Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiv'n.
4. So when next he comes with glory,
wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then, as our defender,
on the clouds of heav'n appear.
5. Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

*(words: 'Vox clara ecce intonat' [6th century], trans Edward Caswall;
music: William Henry Monk; descant: John Barnard)*

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God of time and eternity, for you have opened the eyes of the blind and unstopped the ears of the deaf; you have made the lame leap like a deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. You made this world as a playground of delights and you called a people to be your companions for ever. In Jesus you showed us who you are, who we are, how far we have strayed from you, and how to become your companions again. In his death you opened a path for our redemption and in his resurrection you brought us the joy of forgiveness and everlasting life. And so our souls magnify you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending 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.

(music: Richard Shephard)

God of blessing, in Jesus you fill the hungry with good things. You bestow mercy from generation to generation. You show us the cost and glory of your salvation in the breaking and pouring and sharing of bread and wine. Send down your Holy Spirit, that your people may be sanctified by your grace, and these gifts of bread and wine be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

A bell is rung

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying, "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

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Delivering God, we call on you to fulfil your Advent promise. May water break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; make a highway on which no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. Bring home those who are in exile; fill their hearts with singing and shower their heads with everlasting joy. Unite your church, clothe us with the fruits of your Spirit and fill us with the hope of Advent, the substance of things hoped for and the knowledge of things unseen, until all bow before your throne and worship in your glory, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

[Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.](#)

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

Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us peace. *(music: Richard Shephard)*

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

CANTICLE

1. This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from the door,
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

2. The first thing that I will relate,
that God at first did man create;
the next thing which to you I tell –
woman was made with him to dwell.

3. Thus were we heirs to endless woes
till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run:
that he'd redeem us by his Son.

4. And at this season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear,
and here did live, and hear did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

5. Thus he in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what he did say:

(words & music: Traditional English, arr Ralph Vaughan Williams)

We are sent out

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

THE BLESSING

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon *us* and scatter the shadows from *our* path, guiding *our* steps in the way of peace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

HYMN [Rejoice, the Lord is King](#)

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore.
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

2. Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above.

3. His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus giv'n.

4. He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet.

(words: Charles Wesley; music: George Frideric Handel; descant: John Wilson)

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Giving to All Saints Church

We are pleased to have been able to borrow a card reader from the Diocese of Birmingham to see if is a good way for people to donate to All Saints. You may already give via the Parish Giving Scheme, or weekly envelopes. If any wish to make a donation today by card, please follow the simple instructions on the screen near the Church porch. Your feedback would be appreciated before we decide whether or not to invest in such a system.

All Saints Safeguarding and child protection coordinator is Mary Miles (0121 449 0851) - if you have any concerns or worries about children, young people or vulnerable adults and don't know what to do don't hesitate to contact me



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Eucharistic Prayer from *Joining the Angels' Song*, Samuel Wells and
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Christmas Services:

Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 18 th December, 6.30pm
Children's Carol Service	Christmas Eve, 3pm
Midnight Mass	Christmas Eve, 11.30pm
Christmas Communion	Christmas Day, 10am
New Year's Day Communion	Sunday 1 st January 2023, 10am

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