

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Holy Communion

Advent IV Sunday 18th 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 three 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:* [Advent prose](#)

1. High Word of God, who once didst come,
leaving thy Father and thy home,
to succour by thy birth our kind,
when, towards thy advent, time declined,

2. Pour light upon us from above,
and fire our hearts with thy strong love,
that, as we hear thy Gospel read,
all fond desires may flee in dread;

3. That when thou comest from the skies,
Great Judge, to open thine assize,
to give each hidden sin its smart,
and crown as kings the pure in heart,

4. We be not set at thy left hand,
where sentence due would bid us stand,
but with the Saints thy face may see,
for ever wholly loving thee.

5. Praise to the Father and the Son,
through all the ages as they run;
and to the holy Paraclete
be praise with them and worship meet. Amen.

(words: c10th century, trans Charles Bigg; music: Office Hymn, arr J H Arnold)

We stand for the first HYMN [Wake up, O people](#)

*Wake up, O people, the Lord is very near!
Wake up, and stand for the Lord. (x2)*

1. Your saving Lord is near. Wake up!
His glory will appear. Wake up!
Your hour of grace is nearer than it ever was.

2. The night of sin has passed. Wake up!
The light is near at last. Wake up!
The day star, Christ, the Son of God, will soon appear.

3. To live in love and peace. Wake up!
To let all quarrels cease. Wake up!
To live that all you do may stand the light of day.

4. That Christ may be your shield. Wake up!
That death to life may yield. Wake up!
That heaven's gate be opened wide again for you.

*(words: Marie Lydia Pereira, from Romans 13:11-14;
music: Marie Lydia Pereira, arr Christopher Tambling)*

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

WELCOME 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 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 fourth 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: God, we thank you for choosing Mary, so to this day we can honour her for her intellectual curiosity encountering an angel, her persistent expectation in active waiting, her poetic joy in female company, her physical strength bearing your child, her reflective patience in parenting, her courageous company in suffering, her silent authority in the early church. We light a candle celebrating her fullness of life and offer you our selves, mind, body, will, spirit, for you to birth what you will through us. **Amen.**

We sing:

We shall hold with faith to what God promised,
ready to welcome Christ, the Prince of Justice.
We shall be attentive to his Spirit,
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 remember Mary's hymn of praise and, humbled by her joyous courage, we confess our sins.

Silence

Where we have suppressed your call upon our lives, Lord, have mercy.
[Kyrie eleison.](#) X3(Lord, have mercy)

Where our proud imagination has exalted and pushed down the wrong people, Christ, have mercy.
Christe Eleison.

Where we have deprived the hungry of good things, 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.**

THE COLLECT for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT READING [Isaiah 7:10-16](#)

PSALM 80

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;
it sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the River.
Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted.
They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

NEW TESTAMENT READING [Romans 1:1-7](#)

HYMN [Come, thou long-expected Jesus](#)

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

(words: Charles Wesley; music: John Stainer)

GOSPEL READING [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

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 John Parkin. *It will be on the website shortly.*

At home, letting the intimate moment of crisis in Joseph's life sink in, turn over the idea that trust is not always a feeling, but may more often be a very deliberate choice. Bring to mind a time when you have to chosen to trust someone, or to trust God, when other evidence and signals seemed to be pointing the other way. Did any unexpected fruit result?

Bring to mind anyone you know brought up by someone other than their birth father or mother. Ponder what kinds of grace it takes for that to go well.

Consider people who have been exposed to public shame. How far does it make a difference to you whether they deserve it or not? Turn over the phrase from Mary's great song, the Magnificat, about the mighty being put down from their seats. Is there a way of keeping that joy healthy rather than vengeful?

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:

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

**All: I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker 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.**

INTERCESSIONS in Church are led by Nicola Slee. At home, we turn our reflections into prayer:

For all whose family has had to re-configure because of crisis or separation. Given such crisis is at part of Jesus' family story, pray especially that Christmas gatherings may be gracious.

Pray for all involved in fostering and adoption, for grace, patience, understanding and the courage to trust.

We pray for those we brought to mind who have been publicly shamed, especially that none of us may relish such shaming. We pray for the health of the British press and ourselves as eager consumers of it.

Among those experiencing crisis of different kinds, we pray for those who are unwell, including Norman Brookes, and those recovering from or awaiting surgery and for those in the limbo of waiting for results.

Among those who have died we remember All Saints' loyal friend Mary Priday.

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: The Lord has put down the mighty from their seats and lifted up the lowly.

(Luke 1:52)

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [Ye who own the faith of Jesus](#)

1. Ye who own the faith of Jesus sing the wonders that were done,
when the love of God the Father o'er our sin the vict'ry won,
when he made the Virgin Mary mother of his only Son.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full of grace.

2. Blessèd were the chosen people out of whom the Lord did come,
blessèd was the land of promise fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blessèd was the mother, she who bore him in her womb.

3. Wherefore let all faithful people tell the honour of her name,
let the Church in her foreshadowed part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's mother sang in gladness let Christ's people sing the same.

4. Praise, O Mary, praise the Father, praise the Saviour and thy Son,
praise the everlasting Spirit, who hath made thee ark and throne;
o'er all creatures high exalted, lowly praise the Three in One.

(words: Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles; music: from the 'Paderborn Gesangbuch' [1765])

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.

Bountiful God, we give thanks to you, for you brought in to being your glorious creation and crafted human life in your image. Your prophets promised that a virgin would conceive a son, the One in whom your truth would live, God with us. Through the voice of Mary, your Holy Spirit rejoiced in the wonder of the child eternally begotten of the Father. Through the lips of Joseph you spoke the long awaited name Emmanuel. A sword pierced their hearts when your Son Jesus was crucified at the hands of sinners, but in his resurrection you make a new family of the redeemed, the restored and the renewed. And so with angels and archangels and all the company of earth and heaven, we lift our voices in joyful celebration as we join the unending hymn:

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)

Living God, as your Son was nourished by Mary's body, feed and nourish us, your body, with this holy meal, your very self, that we may grow into fullness of life, dwelling in you as your Spirit breathes through us. Send your Holy Spirit on us now, that we may be your one, holy, catholic and apostolic body, to nourish the life of your world. Send your Spirit upon this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Fearless God, who came in a dream to Joseph, dream through us anew today. Speak into our places of fear. Transcend and transform all that keeps us from living your dream. Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Dream into life in this very place a church renewed by the leading of your Spirit. Dream through our hands and feet your kingdom, where the hungry are filled with good things, the lowly lifted up and the oppressed set free until that day when the life of heaven and earth shall be made one, and all your children gather in glory around you, everlasting 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. Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God on earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high.

*(words: Liturgy of St James, trans G Moultrie;
music: Traditional French melody, arr Christopher Tambling)*

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 [O come, O come, Emmanuel](#)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

3. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

4. O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

5. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

(words: from the 'Great O Antiphons' [12th-13th century], trans John Mason Neale; music: melody adapt Thomas Helmore from a French Missal, arr J H Arnold; descant: Benjamin Noakes)

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	<i>This evening</i> , 6.30pm
Children's Carol Service	Christmas Eve, 3pm
Midnight Communion	Christmas Eve, 11.30pm
Christmas Communion	Christmas Day, 8am and 10am
New Year's Day Communion	Sunday 1 st January 2023, 10am

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