

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Abiding and Beholding

Holy Communion on Epiphany II

Sunday 15th January 2023

We gather

If you are worshipping 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 light a candle.

Music as we gather: [Awake, my soul, and with the sun](#)

1. Awake, my soul, and with the sun
thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay thy morning sacrifice.
2. Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past,
and live this day as if thy last;
improve thy talent with due care;
for the great day thyself prepare.
3. Let all thy converse be sincere,
thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
think how all-seeing God thy ways
and all thy secret thoughts surveys.
4. Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
and with the angels bear thy part,
who all night long unwearied sing
high praise to the eternal King.
5. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, angelic host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(words: Thomas Ken alt; music: François Hippolyte Barthélemon)

When the song ends we stand to sing: [Crown him with many crowns](#)

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem,
the Root, whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.

3. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

4. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose pow'r a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

5. Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

(words: Matthew Bridges; music: George Job Elvey)

Priest: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

We seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

Deacon: We confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Silence

When we underestimate our own gifts or those of others,
Lord, have mercy.

(Isaiah 49)

Lord, have mercy.

When our speech is unkind or dishonest, Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

(1 Corinthians 1)

When we lack curiosity in faith, and will not set things aside in order to listen to you, Lord, have mercy.

(John 1)

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION At home we pray for forgiveness. In church, the priest declares forgiveness for all, wherever we worship:

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

THE GLORIA

1. Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heavenly King;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.

2. Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated,
for your mercy, Lord we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy;
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three in One!

We pray THE COLLECT for the Second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory, 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.**

BIBLE READINGS [Isaiah 49:1-7](#) and [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

HYMN [Purify my heart](#)

1. Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

*Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my master,
ready to do your will.*

2. Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

(words & music: Brian Doerksen)

GOSPEL READING [John 1:29-42](#)

In church we stand and, when it is announced, we say:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *in Church is from David.*

At home begin with our John 1 reading.

"The whole gospel can be read as an education of desire" *(David Ford's commentary on John, p54)*

In the swift introductions to Jesus by John the Baptist, then the curious becoming disciples, we watch a learning community form around Jesus. Apparently light questions – like polite small talk – are really opening up the biggest theological questions of all.

"What are you looking for?" and "Where are you staying?"

*We quickly realise how much **looking** John wants us to do. John the Baptist twice points at Jesus and says "Behold!" "Look properly, everyone. I can tell you what I know, but you must work out who you think this is." The word "behold" will appear fifteen times in this Gospel. Then John's disciples do watch Jesus (Gk Emblepsas), then Jesus looks at, "considers," Simon and, seeing his rock-like feminine strength nick names him Peter – the feminine Greek noun meaning rock. There's a great deal of looking and considering going on. This is what we are invited to join in.*

Then, "Where are you staying?" (Gk Meneis). It can mean "where are your lodgings," but this word "abide" or "dwell" can have deeper meaning. Again, the word will appear many times in the Gospel, describing how when we share in the Eucharist, Christ abides in us and we in him; how the Holy Spirit will dwell within us; how Christ in his farewell prayers speaks of abiding in the father and the father in him and the disciples abiding in him. So from the polite small talk the question and the word "abide" swells with meaning though the whole Gospel.

We are nearly ready to pray.

We affirm our faith

APOSTLES' CREED

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith:

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith in God in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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.**

INTERCESSIONS *in Church are led by Katie Birse.*

At home, we might pray that God lead us in conversation with him/her from the relative safety and politeness of religious small talk to the deeper questions. What do we really desire? What should we really desire?

We pray for church as a learning community, that together our different gifts and insights might enrich our speech and knowledge of God (1 Corinthians 1:5). We

pray for curiosity and confidence to invite others to consider whom Jesus might be for them.

Prompted by Isaiah, we pray for anyone who is downcast, having worked hard for a just cause but feels they have failed. God, restore their sense of calling and confidence in your greater purposes.

We pray for those who have lost sight of humanity and God, instrumentalising and brutalizing, executing and intimidating, adding insult to injury by claiming religious justification. Open such blinded eyes to behold in Christ's humanity the beauty of all humanity reflected back to us.

We pray for those who are unwell, that whatever their circumstances, they may feel God abiding with them and they in God. Among those who are unwell we pray for Lynn Busfield, Iain Galloway and Diane Thompson's sister Sue.

Among those who have died and now discover their dwelling in heaven (John 14) we pray for Barbara Reid, whose funeral is here next week.

THE PEACE

We pause to remember each other: those worshipping at home, and those worshipping in Church.

Deacon: Christ came to preach peace to those who are far off and peace to those who are near. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN

1. Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.

2. Round the Lord in glory seated
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each th' alternate hymn:

3. "Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fulness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy Lord."

4. Heav'n is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry,
"Holy, holy, holy," singing,
"Lord of hosts, the Lord most high."

5. With his seraph train before him,
with his holy Church below,
thus unite we to adore him,
bid we thus our anthem flow:

6. "Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fulness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy Lord."

*(words: Richard Mant; music: Richard Redhead;
descant: Compilers of 'Hymns Ancient & Modern Revised' [1950])*

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, whose Spirit unites and inspires us, with this symbolic meal bind me into the fellowship of the world wide church, and assure me of my place in your heart. **Amen.**

We celebrate God's faithfulness

In Church we stand, if able, for the Eucharistic Prayer

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, Holy One on high, for you have made all things in your sacred womb and you have named and called forth all things according to your eternal purpose. Praise upon praise is yours, for you created such goodness and it was too light a thing you should stop there, so you shaped your life through making a covenant with your people. When that covenant foundered, it was too light a thing for you to raise up only the tribes of Jacob and restore only the survivors of your chosen people, and so you gave your Son to be a light to all nations. As your Son lived our life and died our death you showed it was too light a thing that your glory should be kept in heaven, and so in Jesus' resurrection and ascension you made your glory known to the ends of the earth. And so with angels and archangels and the resounding company of saints, we join in 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.

Summoning God, you beckoned the first disciples to come and see your anointed Son, and through him you anointed each new believer with purpose and power. Bless us as we come to be with you at this feast today. Send your Holy Spirit and anoint us to be the body of our living Lord, beckoning others to come and see the wonders of your love. Send

down your Spirit upon this breaking bread and this sharing cup that they may 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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Inviting God, who calls all creation to one perfect end, give your people grace to receive the invitation you offer each of us this very day. When you ask them to take holy risks, deepen their faith. When you call them to be faithful in small things, give them perseverance. When you invite them to do beautiful things in the life of your kingdom, inspire their imagination. When you call them to forgiveness, lead them by the way of the cross, until you bring every good work you have begun to its completion and you gather heaven and earth into a kingdom that shall have no end; where you reign for evermore as 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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you. Eat in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us your peace. (x2)

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

SONG during Communion [In Christ alone](#)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the will of God was satisfied –
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand! *(words & music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty)*

We are sent out

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with your Word [*and with the body 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 Son of God perfect in *us* the image of his glory and gladden *our* hearts with the good news of his kingdom and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always.

Amen.

HYMN [Hail to the Lord's anointed](#)

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
3. Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
4. O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest;
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever; that name to us is love.

*(words: Paraphrase of Psalm 72, by James Montgomery;
music: From a melody in Johann Crüger's 'Gesangbuch', adapt William Henry Monk)*

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



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