

Welcome to

your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

# Holy Communion Epiphany

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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:*

1. First light is upon our faces, first light of the morning sun,  
first sight of a new creation, first hour of the age to come.
2. New life from the earth is waking, first shoots of the second birth,  
first bloom of an endless springtime, first bud of the tree to life.
3. First rays of the sun of justice, first note of the freedom song,  
first breath of the coming Spirit, first shout from the conquered tomb.
4. First light is the Father's glory, first light is the risen one,  
first born over all creation, we greet the unconquered Son.
5. First sound of a sacred rhythm, first beat of a different drum,  
first step of a dance with heaven, first joy of the world to come.
6. Last sigh of an age that's passing, last chill of a winter's breath,  
last night of the king of terrors, last day of the sting of death.
7. First light is the Father's glory, first light is the risen Son,  
the first and the last of all things, Jesus the Light has come!

*When the song ends we stand.*

HYMN [Brightest and best](#)

1. Brightest and best of the suns of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and let us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3. Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and off'rings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each humble oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

*Repeat verse 1*

(words: Reginald Heber; music: Joseph Francis Thrupp)

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*

As the wise travellers bring gold for a foreign stranger, we confess our grasping culture, our misuse of resources, our suspicion of otherness. Lord, have mercy.

**Kyrie eleison.**

*(The tune we sing is from Ukraine)*

As the wise travellers bring frankincense for a family of a different faith to theirs, we confess the sometimes tiredness of our faith and our hesitation in learning from other faiths and cultures.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christe eleison.**

As the wise travellers bring myrrh for someone who will die cruelly, we confess the ways we have tried to hide death's reality and have turned our face away from suffering.

Lord, have mercy.

**Kyrie eleison.**

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

*May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in life eternal, through 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 Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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 60:1-6](#) and [Ephesians 3:1-12](#)

HYMN [Earth has many a noble city](#)

1. Earth has many a noble city;  
Bethl'em, thou dost all excel:  
out of thee the Lord from heaven  
came to rule his Israel.

2. Fairer than the sun at morning  
was the star that told his birth,  
to the world its God announcing,  
seen in fleshly form on earth.

3. Eastern sages at his cradle  
make oblations rich and rare;  
see them give in deep devotion  
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

4. Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
incense doth their God disclose,  
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,  
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.

5. Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped  
at thy glad Epiphany,  
unto thee with God the Father  
and the Spirit glory be.

*(words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, trans Edward Caswell alt;  
music: German melody, arr Christian Friedrich Witt)*

GOSPEL READING [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

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

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

**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, if you can put your hand on a present day map of Israel and surrounding countries, or find one on your phone, do so. Reflect on the vision of Jerusalem in Isaiah 60 and the warm, admiring reaction of the surrounding nations to her which the prophet imagined. Consider how Jerusalem looks today, the hideous wall and*

*the new right wing alliance forming a government. Consider how her neighbours' treatment of her have underwritten the hard line attitudes currently prevailing. Return to Isaiah's vision and read it slowly, letting any discomfort and dissonance prepare your heart for prayer.*

*Consider the three gifts of the wise visitors from the East. They have come from Persia or Syria: the lands renowned for hostility to Israel, then as now. Consider also those who travel here today from South and East, wondering what gifts they bring.*

*Gold could represent the power of choice achieved through skill and initiative. Frankincense could represent the piety of people of prayer of different faiths. Myrrh for anointing at the time of death (Nicodemus brought some to the Tomb, John says) could represent tender end of life care in our last days.*

*These seem to be the gifts brought by many seeking a life in this country whose journeys show tenacity and initiative; whose confident faith identity often outshines our embarrassed, vague religiosity; whose gifts turn out to help us as so many find a calling in health and social care.*

*Now we may be ready to pray.*

## We affirm our faith

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from Common Worship)

*We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:*

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith in God's desire for the healing of the world, as revealed in Jesus:

**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.**

INTERCESSIONS *in Church are led by Heather Bateson.*

*At home, pray for the countries surrounding Israel on the map. Pray for Jerusalem, Israel and Palestine in whatever ways you feel able. If words do not come easily, offer to God any discomfort or dissonance you felt as you read Isaiah. Ask that the vision, partially fulfilled at various times in the past, might fully come to pass and gifts be exchanged one day between neighbours of different faiths in that region.*

*Then, turning thoughts to home, pray for our health service in the midst of dispute over resourcing and pay. Think of the people you have received care from and their diverse origins and give thanks for any you wish to remember gratefully before God.*

*Among the people who have asked for our prayers we remember Lynn Busfield recovering from surgery and Iain Galloway settling into residential care.*

*We remember those who grieve, including the families of Cecil Lammy and Barbara Reid.*

## THE PEACE

*We pause to remember each other: those worshipping at home, and those worshipping in Church, and those we care for whom we cannot visit.*

Deacon: Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new. We say to one another:

**The Peace of the Lord be always with you.**

## HYMN [We three kings of Orient are](#)

1. We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

### **LOWER VOICES:**

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

3. Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a Deity nigh,  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God most high.

### **HIGHER VOICES:**

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5. Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice;  
alleluia, alleluia,

earth to heav'n replies.

*(words & music: John Henry Hopkins alt)*

*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 celebrate God's faithfulness

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

*As the president takes the bread and wine:*

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

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.**

Revealing God, you send the light of a star, and in that light we see the truth of who you are and the truth of who we are. Like the magi you call us to worship you, but like the magi we mistake where you truly belong and where we truly belong. Yet in revelation you direct us to yourself and in incarnation you meet us in yourself. You become what we are, that we might become what you are. And so you draw us to the company where your angels gather around your eternal throne singing their hymn of 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.**

God of wonder, as the magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, so we bring these gifts of bread and wine. In those gifts we see your grief at the way we crucified your Son, the holy one among us, but also the wonder of how you raised him to be our king in glory for ever. Send down your Holy Spirit, that we may discover what it means to be of you and in you, and that this bread of honest toil and this wine of joyous celebration 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.**

God of wisdom, as the magi brought gold, bring your whole church, living and departed, to the vision of your glory. As the magi brought frankincense, infuse all who seek you with the beauty of your holiness. As the magi brought myrrh, embrace all who suffer until the time comes when you flood the whole creation with justice and mercy. In this banquet restore us in your image, surround us with your company and prepare us for your freedom, that we may come to resemble your Son, through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, now and for ever. **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.*

### SONGS *during Communion*

#### A new year carol

1. Here we bring new water from the well so clear,  
for to worship God with, this happy New Year.

*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

2. Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,  
open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.

3. Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,  
open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

*(words Anon; music: Benjamin Britten)*

#### [A spotless Rose](#) *(sung by Clare Noakes)*

A spotless Rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root,  
of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promis'd fruit;  
its fairest bud unfolds to light  
amid the cold, cold winter, and in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,  
is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid;  
for through our God's great love and might,  
the Blessèd Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.

*(words: Of 14th-century origin; music: Herbert Howells)*

# 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

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, teach *us* to walk his way trustfully, accept his truth faithfully, and share his life lovingly, that by the power of the Holy Spirit *we* may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always.

**Amen.**

## HYMN [As with gladness men of old](#)

1. As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger-bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heav'n and earth adore,  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3. As their precious gifts they laid,  
at thy manger roughly made,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heav'nly King.

4. Holy Jesu, ev'ry day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light,  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

*(words: William Chatterton Dix alt; music: adapt from Conrad Kocher by William Henry Monk; descant: Sydney Hugo Nicholson alt)*

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



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## *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