

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH



*Patrick Hutchinson carries injured racist counter-demonstrator to Safety during BLM protests, 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2020*

## Racial Justice Sunday

Holy Communion 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023,  
the Second Sunday before Lent.

**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. Today, for our prayers, you might have ready five candles and the means to light them.*

*Music as we gather in Church:*

1. Lord of beauty, thine the splendour  
shown in earth and sky and sea,  
burning sun and moonlight tender,  
hill and river, flow'r and tree:  
lest we fail our praise to render  
touch our eyes that they might see.

2. Lord of wisdom, whom obeying  
mighty waters ebb and flow,  
while unhasting, undelaying,  
planets on their courses go:  
in thy laws thyself displaying,  
teach our minds thyself to know.

3. Lord of life, alone sustaining  
all below and all above,  
Lord of love, by whose ordaining  
sun and stars sublimely move:  
in our earthly spirits reigning,  
lift our hearts that we may love.

4. Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,  
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,  
till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,  
and, with vision purified,  
Lord of all, when all have known thee,  
thou in all art glorified.

*(words: Cyril Argentine Alington; music: Basil Harwood)*

*When the song ends we stand to sing:* [All creatures of our God and King](#)

1. All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam:  
*O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2. Thou rushing wind that art so  
strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice:  
*O praise him...*

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear,  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
that givest us both warmth and light:  
*O praise him...*

4. Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.  
*O praise him...*

*(words: William Henry Draper alt, based on the 'Cantico di Frate Sole' of St Francis of Assisi;  
music: 'Geistliche Kirchengesang', Cologne [1623], arr Ralph Vaughan Williams)*

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.

**All: And also with you.**

## WELCOME, BANNS 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: Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

**All:** We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation; Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

**All:** We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid; Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

**All:** We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice; Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

**All:** We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others; Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

**All:** We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves; Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

Priest: May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We sing* **Kyrie eleison.** (Lord, have mercy)  
**Christe eleison.**  
**Kyrie eleison.**

*We pray* THE COLLECT for Racial Justice Sunday

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. **Amen**

BIBLE READINGS [Genesis 1.1-2.3](#) and [Romans 8.18-25](#)

HYMN 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you; allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.*

2. You shall not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word that proceeds from the mouth of God; allelu, alleluia.

3. Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; allelu, alleluia.

*(words: v1 Karen Lafferty, vv2&3 Anon, based on Matthew 6:33, 7:7; music: Karen Lafferty, arr Adrian Vernon Fish)*

*We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [Matthew 6.25-34](#)*

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *from Tariro*

Today in the church calendar is the Sunday where we celebrate Racial Justice. It is a chance for us to reflect while acknowledging that there has been racism in God's world and God's church, and many have suffered because of this great sin, and many continue to do so. This has been at the hands of other Christians, God's children. Many have left the church because of this; many have suffered in silence without speaking out or asking for help because of fear of what would happen to them being a minority.

When we read from Genesis, the story of creation, God shows us his passion, his love for good things. For the six days in which he created the world, he did not make some to be second class citizens, to live a life of being inferior, of being less than. When we read in Genesis chapter 1 from verse 27, it says,

‘ So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’

My brothers and sisters, it is this story, where it all began, that comes to remind us that, God made us the same, in his image. Whatever colour, language or country you might come from one thing to note and remember, that I would ask you to take away with you today is that you are made in God’s image and so you matter, you are important, and God loves you regardless of which continent you are from or who your family are.

God at creation said, have dominion over fish, birds and living things on the earth and somewhere along the way we started to categorise ‘others’ who do not look like us as less human, as ‘living things’ and took it upon ourselves to have dominion over them.

And when Jesus came, he came to a world that was broken so his coming was intentional. If we go back to the previous chapter (5), it then tells us that he goes up a mountain and there are crowds, and he starts teaching. When we read on what he teaches on worrying, he did not say for black people, this is your instruction. If you are from the Caribbeans, this is your set of rules and if you are white, ignore everything that I have said to the Africans and the Caribbeans, NO.

Jesus rises above what the scribes (Matthew 7 vs 29) style of teaching was and teaches them as one having authority and he goes back highlighting the narrative we have at creation. He emphasises how important we ALL are above the many things God created in the beginning but most importantly shows us that what applies to one when it comes to God, applies to all his children. There are second class citizens and that is that!

My brothers and sister, Jesus is telling us to strive for the kingdom of God first and his righteousness. Do you know what that looks like?

Read 1 Corinthians 13. It is being able to see the so called ‘other’ that we have put into that category with eyes of love and give the gift of love. To be patient with them when their English is not so perfect, and they are struggling to find an English word to convey what they want to say. It is being kind and not boast over the privileges or the blessings that we have. It is not resenting others because they do differently or sound different. It is believing the best of your brother and sister and hoping for the best for them too.

Read Galatians 5. It is having the fruits of the spirit, having love for all, sharing joy, extending peace, having patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. It is not becoming conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

To those who worry or have lived with worry or have been hurt, have experienced racism of any kind, Jesus is coming to remind us that there is a God who sees, who throughout has taken care of birds making sure that they are fed and clothed and so he sees you. Do not worry if they will accept you when you go to that meeting next week, or if where you are moving to, they will embrace you and you feel like you belong. God

already knows and while it might seem like nothing is happening, something is happening. There was a time when as a church we chose to play a deaf ear and play innocent when racism was going on, but things have changed.

Paul adds on in Roman and I always want to say Paul is a realist. He does not try to cover up that there is suffering because he points it out that it is there clear and direct, but he does not leave us in the doom and gloom, he adds that there is something bigger that is to be revealed to us, the Glory. He mentions that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains not just creation but we ourselves and he mentions that word, HOPE.

Hope saved us, says Paul. And Hope will always save us. Hope is the confident expectation and desire for something good in the future, things that God has promised us and the strength of this is found in God's faithfulness. Its not the here and now but the picture we have of what God has said our world will be, what he created in the beginning. And so, we go back to the creation story where all was good, and humankind is one and until then we do not lose hope.

The church is on a journey of that, acknowledging what has happened before and looking for ways to correct that. It hasn't finished the work that needs doing but it is working towards making sure that people from all walks of life and the diversity of the world can feel welcome and use their gifts without feeling like they have to change themselves to fit in.

I for one, as a young, single, black, African ordained woman am grateful that I'm in a place where I do not need to worry when I leave the house to come and stand in front of you whether today someone is going to express that I should talk different or dress different or learn to have a certain accent and can go back home and say it was a good day. I am grateful that I'm in a place where I'm not just accepted because I'm a priest but there are others even though we are in the minority who play a part in our church life reading and praying amongst many other things and I pray that as our country becomes more and more diverse and many more people who look like me and sound like me come, they will also be able to share their stories of belonging because they will have been welcomed wherever they land.

The challenge my brothers and sister that is being left to us is to ask, on this journey to making sure that we do away with this sin, what part are you going to play? Not just within the walls that make All Saints but outside these walls too, within Church of England Birmingham and Church of England and the world as a whole.

Maybe you do not know how, or you did not realise there was a problem to begin with and that is why we have Racial Justice Sunday so we can be in the know. And if we do not know how, asking others with grace might be the first step to working together, learning from one another and keeping Hope alive.

## We affirm our faith

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

Deacon: We stand, if able, to affirm our faith as one beloved human race, created, redeemed and strengthened by 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.**

(Cf Ephesians 3)

INTERCESSIONS in church are *led by Chris Pearce*

*Candles are lit as we pray.*

***For those praying at home, light the first candle and dwell on St John's words:***

*"Perfect love casts out fear."*

*Pray for healing for any whose fear turns to prejudice.*

*Light the second candle and give thanks for those who from many nations have helped build this city, nation and society, navigating prejudice and ingratitude.*

*Light the third candle and pray for the dignity of every worker and citizen, asking God to expose oppression of any kind.*

*Light a fourth candle and pray for the survivors of this week's earthquake and all who work for their rescue and relief. Pray for God to reveal any ways in which prejudice affects our response to need around the world.*

We pray: Gracious God, help us to regard all people as made in your image. Create in us brave hearts to acknowledge and address our prejudices. Forgive the way we collude with silence and imprison others in it. Give us courage to speak words that liberate and heal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Light the fifth candle, remembering those whom you care for and those who have asked for our prayers including:*

Among those who are unwell, Charlotte Dunlop, Norman Brookes, Maddie Hems, Iain Galloway

Among those who have died we remember Mary Priday, John Ashcroft and Peter Harris.

## THE PEACE

*We pause to remember each other: those worshipping at home, and those worshipping in Church. In Church, if able, we stand.*

Deacon: God calls us to peace:  
**All in God's justice is our peace.**  
Christ calls us to be God's people:  
**in Christ is our peace.**  
The peace of the Lord be always with you:  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## HYMN [Immortal, invisible, God only wise](#)

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

*(words: Walter Chalmers Smith, based on 1 Timothy 1:17; music: Adapted from a traditional Welsh hymn melody in John Roberts' 'Caniadu y Cyssegr' [1839]; descant: Barry Rose)*

*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'*

The Lord be with you

**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 God thanks and praise.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and singing:

**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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love, made perfect in our human weakness.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

*A bell is rung.*

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, 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.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

*A bell is rung.*

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: As our Saviour taught us, each in our mother tongue, 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. All are welcome to receive. If you prefer not to share the common cup, receiving just the bread is as much communion as receiving both. If you prefer not to receive but would value a prayer of blessing do come forward and simply keep your hands by your sides. We will pray for you.*

*For the sake of those with gluten intolerance, please do not dip your wafer in the wine.*

*SONG during Communion*

1. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.
  
2. Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?  
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.
  
3. Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?  
In Jesus' presence naught but calm is found.
  
4. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?  
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.
  
5. Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?  
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.
  
6. Peace, perfect peace, death shad'wing us and ours?  
Jesus has vanquished death and all its pow'rs.
  
7. It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,  
and Jesus call us to heav'n's perfect peace.

*(words: Edward Henry Bickersteth; music: George Thomas Caldbeck & Charles Vincent)*

# We are sent out

**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

Priest: The blessing of God the Father, who made from one every nation that occupies the earth; of God the Son, who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation; and of God the Spirit, who brings us together in unity, be with you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## HYMN [Eternal Father, strong to save](#)

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,  
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

2. O Saviour, whose almighty word  
the winds and waves submissive heard,  
who walkedst on the foaming deep,  
and calm, amid its rage, didst sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

3. O sacred Spirit, who didst brood  
upon the waters dark and rude,  
and bid their angry tumult cease,  
and give, for wild confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

4. O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
our brethren shield in danger's hour.  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them whereso'er they go;  
and ever let there rise to thee  
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

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



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<sup>i</sup> Today's Confession and Preface were written for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of David's ordination. Self indulgent, but his birthday falling on a Sunday, they came to mind again.