

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH



Holy Communion

Easter VI, Sunday 14th May 2023

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 light a candle.

Music as we gather:

1. Finished the strife of battle now, gloriously crowned the victor's brow;
sing with gladness, banish sadness: Alleluia, alleluia!
2. After the death that him befell, Jesus Christ has harrowed hell;
songs of praising we are raising: Alleluia, alleluia!
3. On the third morning he arose, shining with vict'ry o'er his foes;
earth is singing, heav'n is ringing: Alleluia, alleluia!
4. Lord, by your wounds on you we call, you, by your death, have freed us all;
may our living be thanksgiving: Alleluia, alleluia!

(words: Unknown, trans John Mason Neale alt; music: Gregory Murray)

When the song finishes we stand in silence. We sing:

HYMN

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now can no more, O death, appal us.
Jesus lives! by this we know thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us. Alleluia.
2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath, when we pass its gloomy portal. Alleluia.
3. Jesus lives! for us he died; then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide, glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluia.
4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor pow'rs of hell tear us from his keeping ever. Alleluia.
5. Jesus lives! to him the throne over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone, rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia.

(words: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, trans Frances Elizabeth Cox alt; music: Henry John Gauntlett)

We acclaim:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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 those frequent times when we have been stony ground, too
hard to value the tiny seed, the generous smile, the heartfelt word.

All: You grow us into community.

We confess those frequent times when we have been stony ground, too
hard to see beyond our selfish desires and for tacitly accepting a world
that smothers the dreams of those with less power and wealth.

All: You grow us into community.

Creator God, once again, you have planted the seed of love in our hearts, in our souls, in our lives.

All: You grow us into community.

FORGIVENESS is declared:

Priest: [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 eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon: We draw near today in the knowledge that your forgiveness waters the seed and nurtures us with the power of your Spirit to grow, to flourish and to bear the fruit of your justice now and for ever.

All: You grow us into community.

We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA.

1, Glory be to God in heaven,
songs of praise and joy we bring;
thankful hearts and voices raising,
to creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you:
Lord we bless you:
glory be to God our King;
glory be to God our King.

2. Lamb of God who on your shoulders
bore the load of this world's sin:
only Son of God the Father
you have brought us peace within.
Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
now your glorious reign begin;
now your glorious reign begin.

3. You O Son of God are holy,
you we praise with one accord:
none in heaven or earth is like you,
only you are Christ the Lord:
with the Father
and the Spirit
ever worshipped and adored;
ever worshipped and adored.

A COLLECT for Christian Aid Week

God, gardener of Eden, who flung stars into space and nurtures the tiniest plant, lift our hopes and dreams above the loss and damage of our suffering planet, that we might share your long-dreamed vision which values the pea as much as the plant, fill us with your life-giving hope and inspire us with your creative Spirit now, and in the age to come. **Amen.**

READINGS [Acts 17:22-31](#) and [1 Peter 3:13-end](#)

HYMN [He is Lord](#)

1. He is Lord, he is Lord.
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord.
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

2. He is Lord, he is King.
He is risen from the dead and he is King.
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is King.

3. He is love, he is love.
He is risen from the dead and he is love.
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is love.

(words & music: Unknown, arr Adrian Vernon Fish)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [John 14: 15-21](#)

All: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

SERMON in Church is from Tariro
For those at home:

Consider where Paul is speaking: he stands in front of the Areopagus, the centre of civic administration, which is on Mars Hill, Mars being the God of War. There he speaks of Jesus. This is audacious, yet he is courteous, admitting in that multi faith city that all of us humans can only grope after the divine. He invites everyone to think about making their way in the world defined by God as met in Jesus.

Think about some of the famous civic buildings we look to in Birmingham or London. What do they suggest to you about where we put our trust? What messages do their architecture send?

Think of the multi-cultural crowd Paul spoke to, then the wonderful multi-coloured scene in a busy Birmingham street. Stay for a while in that scene with Paul's words about us all being descended from one ancestor (Adam) a poetic assertion of the unity of the human race. Imagine God breathing life into all of us, His/Her "offspring."

We affirm our faith

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:

**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.

(from Common Worship)

INTERCESSIONS

At home: ask that the Spirit of truth breath through the civic institutions on which we rely. Ask that S/He reveal to us where we put too much trust in the threat of violence, and pray for those places where the god of war is relied on more than God our peaceable creator.

Ask that the Spirit of truth encourage all whose faith feels fragile or who are made to feel foolish for praying and any persecuted for their faith or politics.

Pray for the Spirit of truth to expose and purge st the racism that would propel human beings apart. Assert our common humanity by crossing the world this Christian Aid Week, following the link to glimpse their partnership in Malawi and pray for what you find.

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI_q7Csdns_gIVzO3tCh1V-wuBEAAYASAAEgLCHfD_BwE

Among those who are unwell we pray for Brian Clucas, Noreen Hart and Trish Howard.

Among those who have died we remember Vicki Mulrey, Iain Galloway and Pat Warbrick.

THE PEACE

Deacon: Jesus said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid." The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [I, the Lord of sea and sky](#)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

(words & music: Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 6)

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.

We tell the story of salvation

Priest: The Lord is here.
All: God's Spirit is with us.
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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you and saying:

We repeat after the cantor:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord!
God of power and God of might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord most high.
Hosanna.
Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, we bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. do this in remembrance of me.

A bell is rung

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did. In him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**All: Great the mystery of faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All: 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 and now lives for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

We sing: **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, now for us the body of Christ.

SONGS during Communion [Faithful One](#) *(sing twice)*

Faithful One, so unchanging,
Ageless One, you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all I depend on you,
I call out to you again and again.
I call out to you again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble.
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm your love is the anchor,
my hope is in you alone.

(words & music: Brian Doerksen)

Take my hands, Lord

1. Take my hands, Lord, to share in your labours,
take my eyes, Lord, to see your needs,
let me hear the voice of lonely people,
let my love, Lord, bring riches to the poor.

2. Give me someone to feed when I'm hungry,
When I'm thirsty give water for their thirst.
When I stand in need of tenderness,
give me someone to hold who longs for love.

3. Keep my heart ever open to others,
may my time, Lord, be spent with those in need;
may I tend to those who need your care.
Take my life, Lord, and make it truly yours,
take my life, Lord, and make it truly yours.

(words: vv1 & 3 Margaret Rizza, v2 unknown; music: Margaret Rizza)

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

Always be ready to explain the hope you have within you with gentleness and reverence, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

(cf 1 Peter 3:15-16)

HYMN

Great is thy faithfulness

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(words: Thomas Obadiah Chilsholm; music: William Marion Runyan)

We acclaim:

Deacon: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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



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