

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



River of grace Holy Communion

Trinity 1, Sunday 11th June 2023

We gather

For those 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:

*Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia.*

1. Yahweh's people dance for joy.
O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines,
and let the trumpet sound.

2. Rise, O children, from your sleep;
your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song.

3. Glad my soul for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be
raised.
I know my Saviour lives.

(words & music: Daniel L Schutte, from Psalm 98)

When the song finishes we stand in silence.

We sing: [All are welcome](#)

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

2. Let us build a house where prophets
speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

(words & music: Marty Haugen)

We acclaim:

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: In confession we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, so
that he may exalt us in due time. We cast our anxiety on him, because
he cares for us. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Silence

All:

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your
salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS *is declared:*

[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.**

We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA

Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

1. Glory to God in the heights of the heavens.
Peace to God's people, all people on earth.

2. Son of the Father, all glory and worship;
praise and thanksgiving to you, Lamb of God.

3. You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.

4. Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.

5. And with the Spirit of love everlasting,
reigning in glory for ever. Amen.

(Georges Salazaar)

THE COLLECT for the first Sunday after Trinity

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

READINGS [Acts 11:19-end](#) and [Galatians 2:1-10](#)

HYMN

1. My God, how wonderful you are,
your majesty how bright;
how beautiful your mercy-seat
in depths of burning light!

2. Creator from eternal years
and everlasting Lord,
by holy angels day and night
unceasingly adored!

3. How wonderful, how beautiful
the sight of you must be –
your endless wisdom, boundless power,
and awesome purity!

4. O how I fear you, living God,
with deepest, tenderest fears,
and worship you with trembling hope
and penitential tears!

5. But I may love you too, O Lord,
though you are all-divine,
for you have stooped to ask of me
this feeble love of mine.

6. Father of Jesus, love's reward,
great King upon your throne,
what joy to see you as you are
and know as I am known!

(words: Frederick William Faber; music: James Turle)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [John 15:12-17](#)

All: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
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 David

At home: From the call of tax collector Matthew after whom this Gospel is named, the action flows swiftly with, by contrast, a local religious leader with some humility begs for Jesus' help. Matthew is now looking on as part of the group. Then the woman desperate for exhausting continual menstruation to cease touches the hem Jesus' cloak and is healed, then blessed face to face by Jesus. On the move, swiftly, to Jairus' house where he raises the dead girl. We may note the difference in Matthew's telling of this story, abbreviated from Mark's more tense account where the girl is only ill, so there is urgency, the woman's dialogue is much longer, then the girl is shown to be twelve, so not only alive for the length of time the woman has been ill, but also on the threshold of puberty, the beginning of menstruation which the woman longs to cease. Mark often highlights tensions between social classes. Though ultimately they share an aim, Matthew knows Mark's account and abbreviates, perhaps, because he wants to let the flow of grace and healing and welcome move easily like a contented river making its effortless way, not too rapid, not sluggish, finding objects to weave around and shape itself attractively in the sunlight. Matthew wants us to feel the accessibility of Jesus and in him God's adaptable affection for all humankind.

Dwell on the sequence of diverse people as much as their individual need and character.

Paul meanwhile writes as a fervent Jewish scholar who spent some years vigorously defending his faith as an exclusive and superior identity. Following his conversion he re-reads the tradition he loves and finds he does not have to reject it, but enjoy it even more than he did before, with new insight emphasising that Abraham's faith was ultimately to find fulfilment in the blessing, not of an exclusive group, but of all nations. He is uniquely qualified, then, to re-analyse the precious ancient texts with the lenses of Christ's pacifism and see the grace of God only needing a glimmer of trust in any human heart to find reconciliation and life-giving connection with people who felt God was out of reach.

Abraham's trust was not so much specific expectation of an event – the God will give me a parking place school of thought - as an open-heartedness to God's future which he could hardly imagine. He trusted all would be well in the end. All would find purpose.

Think of a time when you thought an intimidating change was going to take something off you, but in the event turned out to be an unexpected gain.

Perhaps we are ready to pray.

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:

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith.

**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. Amen

INTERCESSIONS

For those at home: Just over half our population live through Menopause. We met a woman in Matthew who was desperate to reach that stage as a liberation and relief. We don't often hear it spoken of, let alone so positively. Pray for all those on the threshold of womanhood.

Pray for the proper provision of whatever they need for comfort and confidence at school; not only here but in countries where education is seriously disrupted for young girls for whom the simplest practical provision would be transformative.

Pray for older women reaching the threshold of menopause, for better information; the swift provision of long promised free prescriptions; that they may encounter the kinds of emotional and professional respect and space that might make this a time for fullness of life, not inhibition.

We pray for all involved in the administration and collection of tax, that they too may hear the call of God on their inner life. We pray for all in religious leadership to find the humility of Jairus, the acceptance of their own need and vulnerability weaving into ministry. [David gives warmest thanks for the way this community has, three times, surrounded him in bereavement.]

We have met a social outcast, a bereaved leader, and older and a younger woman with different health and social needs. We bring to mind all who need our prayers because of social isolation, illness or bereavement, including

Gill Parkin, Matthew Bick's father, Wendy Turner, Lynn Busfield preparing for surgery next week, Roger Tyrrell, and those adjusting to residential care.

Among those who have died we remember Brian Clucas and Tevin Gasa, and Bill Gardner and Mary Cole whose ashes are to be buried in the memorial garden.

THE PEACE

Deacon: All things work for good for those who love God. The peace of the Lord be always with you. (Romans 8:28)

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

1. Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,
 come to him and bless his name.
 Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,
 faithful to the end of days.

*Come then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness,
 melodies of praise and thanks to God.
 Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music,
 worship him and bless his name.*

2. Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,
 risen from the snares of death.
 His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,
 new life he now gives to all.

3. Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,
 Spirit of our God most high;
 solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,
 splendour of the living God.

4. Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,
 praise God with the lute and harp;
 praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,
 praise God till the end of days.

*(words: Ernest Sands;
 music: Ernest Sands & Christopher Walker, arr Paul Inwood)*

*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.

Lord Emmanuel, the with-us God, we thank and praise you because you called Abraham out of the dust of Haran and made him the father of many nations. You blessed him and blessed those who blessed him, and called his nation one in whom all peoples would find blessing. You reckoned his faith as righteousness. In Jesus you fulfilled that blessing and, in his dying and rising, opened out that covenant to your whole creation. And so we celebrate the wonders of your grace, with all the host of heaven, singing your unending hymn.

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 ever-presence, Abraham built an altar in the desert because you had appeared to him. Appear to us now as we gather around this holy table in your name. As your Son pitched his tent in our midst, so through your Holy Spirit make him present to us and make us holy though him that we might behold your glory. Sanctify by that same Spirit this bread and wine, 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

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

Infectious God, in touching the hem of your Son's garment a woman was restored to wholeness and community. In this sacrament give us grace to touch the hem of your garment and so find life and truth and peace. Vindicate all who find themselves excluded by prejudice, discrimination or bigotry. Restore to your company any who have

withdrawn through shame or fear or regret. Lift up those who are invisible because of cruelty or imprisonment or suppression. Visit your children who are close to death or dismayed by grief. Gather to yourself a kingdom of sinner and sage, exiled and exalted, that the body, mind and spirit of your groaning creation may leap for joy and sing in your heart for ever and a day, 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 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.

ANTHEM there will be a special anthem sung after Communion marking RSCM Music Sunday.

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] God the Holy Trinity make *us* strong in faith and love, defend *us* on every side and guide *us* in truth and 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 [Let all the world in every corner sing](#)

1. Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!
The heav'ns are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

2. Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!

Repeat verse 1

(words: George Herbert; music: Basil Harwood)

Deacon: "Let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the spring rains that water the earth." (Hosea 6:3)
So go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.

This evening, 6.30pm Making Room for Each Other

On the feast of St Barnabas we make space to reflect on what makes, and sometimes breaks, friendship. No one will need to share anything too personal, but there will be a chance to give thanks for cherished friends and pray privately for any friendships in need of healing.



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