

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## Peace or Sword? Holy Communion

Trinity 3, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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: [Follow me](#)*

*Follow me, follow me, leave your home and family,  
leave your fishing nets and boats upon the shore.  
Leave the seed you have sown, leave the crops that you've grown,  
leave the people you have known and follow me.*

1. The foxes have their holes and the swallows have their nests,  
but the Son of Man has no place to lie down,  
I do not offer comfort, I do not offer wealth,  
but in me will all happiness be found.

2. If you would follow me, you must leave old ways behind.  
You must take my cross and follow on my path.  
You may be far from loved ones, you may be far from home,  
but my Father will welcome you at last.

3. Although I go away you will never be alone,  
for the Spirit will be there to comfort you.  
Though all of you may scatter, each follow his own path,  
still the Spirit of love will lead you home.

*(words: Michael Cockett; music: Cuddy Madeleine, arr Donald Thomson)*

*When the song finishes we stand in silence.*

*We sing:* [Praise, my soul, the King of heaven](#)

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven!  
To his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

2. Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same as ever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows!

4. Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

*(words: Henry Frances Lyte, based on Psalm 103; music: John Goss)*

Priest      Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you all.

**All:      And also with you.**

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: Jesus said even the hairs of our head are counted by God. There is nothing we can or need conceal from him. Let us confess our sins in penitence and trust.

### *Silence*

For the times we have been hesitant to acknowledge you publicly when it might have made all the difference: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the times we have set faith over against other precious relationships when it should have made all the difference to them:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For the times we have clutched something so possessively that we have lost it, when letting go would have made all the difference:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

(Cf Matthew 10)

*FORGIVENESS is prayed for at home declared in Church:*

*[May]* The almighty and merciful God grant *us* pardon and forgiveness of all *our* sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **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.

THE COLLECT for the third Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS [Jeremiah 20:7-13](#) and [Romans 6:1b-11](#)

HYMN 1. Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,  
for I know I always can trust you.

2. Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.  
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be,  
for I know I always can trust you.

3. Father, we love to see your face, we love to hear your voice.  
Father, we love to sing your praise and in your name rejoice.  
Father, we love to walk with you and in your presence rest  
for we know we always can trust you.

4. Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do.  
Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too.  
Father, I want to love the ones that you will draw to you,  
for I know that I am one with you.

*(words & music: Jenny Hewer)*

*We remain standing for the* GOSPEL READING [Matthew 10:24-39](#)

**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.**

## SERMON in Church

*For reflection at home:*

*There have been plenty of investigations searching for secrets lately: Scottish political party funds, phone hacking, Lockdown gatherings. Spend some time thinking about the things you think should be brought into the open. These are meant to be pursued in the public interest.*

*There is all too much prurience, voyeurism, intrusion, such as the phone hacking that provoked that investigation. Then think about things you think are not for the public realm. Consider some of the aspects of human life that we can give thanks that God, and only God, need know. Perhaps there are areas of our own life we want to acknowledge we are grateful he knows.*

*Then spend some time thinking about situations where knowledge or revelation has caused division and strife in a family, community or country. Jesus' searing irony about him of all people bringing "not peace but a sword" faces us with the tragedy of our making good things divisive and highlights our difficulty in hearing truth from one another.*

*He does with quite extreme rhetoric ask us to consider relationship with God as the most defining, character shaping and important aspect of our life. Dare we spend time asking ourselves whether we treat it so?*

*Jeremiah makes the same point with powerful poetry describing how faith burns in his bones even when he'd rather not think about it. Like God's complete knowledge of us (Mtt 10:29), it's frightening at first, but ultimately reassuring to him.*

*"Lord...you see the heart and the mind....Sing to the Lord; Praise the Lord!"*

## 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:*

Deacon: We affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**We believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist.**

**We believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,**

**died for us and rose again.**

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world.**

**This is the faith of the Church.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

(adapted from Common Worship)

## INTERCESSIONS

*For those at home:*

*Pray for the enquiries mentioned and any others that came to mind.*

*Pray for all whose personal life is exposed to public scrutiny or intrusion.*

*Pray for any who have paid a high personal price in broken relationships because they have spoken the truth.*

*Among those who have asked for our prayers we remember:*

*Alan Wilson, Wendy Turner, Roger Tyrrell, Margaret Shepherd, David Bick, Dorothy and Norman Brookes and Gill Parkin. We pray too for any struggling to settle into residential care.*

*Among those who have died we remember Brian Clucas.*

*We stand for THE PEACE*

Deacon: Christ is our peace. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [Take up thy cross, the Saviour said](#)

1. Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up thy cross – let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm:  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine  
arm.

3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:  
thy Lord for thee the Cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.

4. Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
and calmly ev'ry danger brave;  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
and lead to vict'ry o'er the grave.

5. Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

6. To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise for evermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heav'nly life that knows no end.

*(words: Charles William Everest, based on Mark 8 alt;  
music: 'As Hymnodus Sacer' [1625], arr Felix Mendelssohn)*

*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 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.**

We lift our hearts and souls to you, Lord God, for you made creation out of nothing and in Abraham you called a people to be your own. You crafted a destiny for your children from the barrenness of despair and the wilderness of sin. You made an everlasting covenant that bound you and humanity to be with one another for ever. In Jesus you made a new covenant that embodied humankind's full presence before you and your full presence before humankind. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory.

**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.**

Uniting God, you bind yourself to us in Christ's death and you bind us to yourself in Christ's resurrection. In him we are dead to sin and alive to you. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal in his memory that we might be a ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven people delivered from the curse of slavery, and that this bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Who on the night before he died, 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*

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Jealous God, you want us for yourself and you teach us to shape all our loves as ways of loving you. Give your consolation to all who live with no peace, but only a sword. Dwell with those who find their household divided, son against father, mother against daughter; and any who find it hard to love you and to cherish their family members too. Restore your Church, that it may discover you on the way of the cross and find its life by losing it for your sake, until the day when you are the joy of our desiring, and we the joy of yours, when every eye shall behold you and every tongue confess you as lord, one holy 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 and now lives for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*We sing:* [Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,](#)  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

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

*SONGS during Communion*

[Bread of the world in mercy broken](#)

1. Bread of the world in mercy broken, wine of the soul in mercy shed, by whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead.	2. Look on the heart by sorrows broken, look on the tears by sinners shed; and be thy feast to us the token that by thy grace our souls are fed.
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*(words: Reginald Heber; music: Louis Bourgeois, from the 'Genevan Psalter' [1551])*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:  
when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

*(words: Taizé Community; music: Jacques Berthier)*

## 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]* The Lord bless *us* and keep *us*. The Lord make his face to shine upon *us* and be gracious to *us*. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon *us* and give us 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

### [Lord, for the years](#)

1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

3. Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt you,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5. Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us –  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*(words: Timothy Dudley-Smith; music: Michael Baughen, arr David Iliff)*

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



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