

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



Holy Communion

Trinity 7, Sunday 23rd July 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: Blessed assurance

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
(x2)*

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his
love.

(words & music: Frances Jane van Alstyne [Fanny J Crosby]; music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp)

We sing: Holy Spirit, come, confirm us

1. Holy Spirit, come, confirm us in the truth that Christ makes known;
we have faith and understanding through your promised light alone.

2. Holy Spirit, come, console us, come as Advocate to plead;
loving Spirit from the Father, grant in Christ the help we need.

3. Holy Spirit, come, renew us, come yourself to make us live;
holy through your loving presence, holy through the gifts you give.

4. Holy Spirit, come, possess us, you the love of Three in One,
Holy Spirit of the Father, Holy Spirit of the Son.

(words: Brian Foley; music: Richard Redhead)

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 God proves his love for us in that while we were sinners Christ died for
us. Therefore with confidence let us confess our sins and seek his
forgiveness. (Romans 5:8)

Silence

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

FORGIVENESS *is declared:*

*[May] the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord
Amen.*

We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA

[Glory to God in the highest,](#)

and peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS [Wisdom 12:13, 16-19](#) and [Romans 8:12-25](#)

HYMN: Abba, Father, let me be (*sing twice*)

Abba, Father, let me be yours and yours alone.
May my will forever be more and more your own.
Never let my heart grow cold, never let me go.
Abba, Father, let me be yours and yours alone.

(words & music: Dave Bilbrough, arr Christopher Tambling)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON in Church is by Nigel

For reflection at home:

The parable we have today highlights for us how in this world, while we might go about planting good seeds, there are those who also go about planting bad seeds.

Reflect on your life or life in the community you live in or family. What good deeds have you seen? Have they been followed by anything bad?

While we might want for all things to be good, it is not everything and every time that things are this way. In our world, politics and business, we have those whose ethics and behaviour are questionable and or advocate for the wrong things. The church is not immune to this too. The parable goes on to say, let the good and bad grow together and at harvest they will be separated.

Often, we want to rush in with sharpness, to cut out with violence but God is pointing out that he sees all this and at the right time he will separate the good and the bad. He is calling us to patience that we often lack. He is not asking us to tolerate things that are intolerable. There are times indeed where we need to be decisive for example where there is abuse. However, that is not always the case. Sometimes there is need to show grace, for us not to judge too quickly or condemn too fast.

Think of times or situations where maybe you are too fast or have been too quick to judge and condemn? How might the parable inspire you today?

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:

APOSTLES' CREED

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

For those at home:

We pray for our world that pollution and cruel exploitation might cease, that the poorest nations of the world may not harvest their fields only to fill foreign tables, that there be peace and reconciliation.

We pray for all those for whom home is a place of fear and danger especially as the holiday season begins

We pray for those who feel judged, lost and broken, that they will find a path which brings them back to a place of belonging and healing

We pray for our church community, especially asking for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we look for the next church wardens

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers remembering especially Adrjan Kozlowski, who has recently come out of hospital, Lynn Busfield, Ruth Tetlow, Gill Parkin, Tricia Howard, Wendy Turner, Dorothy and Norman Brookes – and others known to us that there know and feel your presence with them.

We pray for ourselves, that we will know deep within us the embrace of love and "welcome home" you offer each of us, that we patient and not quick to judge.

We pray for those who have died especially Margaret Shepherd and Brian Clucas whose funeral is next week.

We stand for THE PEACE

Priest: Since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

(Romans 3:1)

All: And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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.

HYMN: Take my life, and let it be

1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it thine:
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

(words: Frances Ridley Havergal; music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart adapt)

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.

Glory and praise are yours, majestic God, for you make a ladder between heaven and earth; in Jesus you descend that ladder to bring us into your presence, and in his death and resurrection you bring us with him, ascending the ladder to your throne of grace. You set creation free from its bondage to decay and bestow upon your children the freedom of the glory of your redemption. You call your people to be a blessing to all the families of the earth. And so we join the ladder of angels and archangels, ascending and descending with all the company of heaven, singing the song of your 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.**

Liberating God, through the sonship of Jesus you send your Spirit to create among your children the joy of adoption and bestow upon us the gift of being your heirs. Send that Spirit upon us now, that we might be what we eat, Christ's body in your world; and sanctify this bread and this cup that they may be for us the blessed 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

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

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

God of patience and hope, sower of all good seeds, show those who suffer the incomparable glory of what you have in store for them. When your children's field is interlaced with weeds among the wheat, when the labour pains of creation groan to highest heaven, give us your heart to live in your time and abide in the truth of what we do not yet see. Bless your people that they may know that you are with them and will keep them wherever they go, that they shall exclaim that surely you are among them, though they did not know it. Bring all creation into the eternal joy of abiding in an awesome place, your very house, the gate of heaven, where you dwell for ever, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through all ages with power and glory. **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.

SONG during Communion

[O God, you search me and you know me](#)

1. O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

2. You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life and death, you are.

3. Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.

4. Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

5. For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

(words & music: Bernadette Farrell, based on Psalm 139)

We are sent out

We pray

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that, when we were still far off, you met us in your son and brought us home. Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

[May] the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen *us* with his Spirit in *our* inner being, so that Christ may dwell in *our* hearts by faith, and that, knowing his love, broad and long, deep and high beyond *our* knowledge, *we* may be filled with all the fullness of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

SONG: God is working his purpose out

1. God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year.
God is working his purpose out, and the day is drawing near.
Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

2. From the east to the utmost west wherever foot has trod,
through the mouths of his messengers echoes forth the voice of God:
"Listen to me, ye continents, ye islands, give ear to me,
that the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea."

3. How can we do the work of God, how prosper and increase
harmony in the human race, and the reign of perfect peace?
What can we do to urge the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea?

4. All our efforts are nothing worth unless God bless the deed;
vain our hopes for the harvest tide till he brings to life the seed.
Yet ever nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

(words: Arthur Campbell Ainger, adapt Michael Forster; music: Millicent Kingham, in 'Church Hymns' [1903])

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

Join us this evening at 6:30pm for our worship service as
we make room for God who is Omniscience.



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