

Morning Prayer

at home with your
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Broader horizons

Sunday 20th August 2023

11th Sunday after Trinity

Preparation

You may wish to mark your time of worship by arranging a table with a cloth, a candle and your Bible, or anything, such as flowers, that makes it a special reflective space.

Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.

HYMN [O Lord, all the world belongs to you](#)

1. O Lord, all the world belongs to you,
and you are always making all things new.
What is wrong you forgive, and the new life you give
is what's turning the world upside down.
2. The world's only loving to its friends,
but you have brought us love that never ends;
loving enemies too, and this loving with you
is what's turning the world upside down.
3. The world lives divided and apart.
You draw us all together and we start,
in your body, to see that in fellowship we
can be turning the world upside down.
4. The world wants the wealth to live in state,
but you show us a new way to be great:
like a servant you came, and if we do the same,
we'll be turning the world upside down.
5. O Lord, all the world belongs to you,
and you are always making all things new.
Send you Spirit on all in your Church, whom you call
to be turning the world upside down.

(words & music: Patrick Appleford, arr Andrew Moore)

At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us.

We take this time, united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may find new ways to serve God.

Prayers of Penitence

We confess:

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking and speaking: the hurts I have done to others, and good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We keep silence, then pray:

May almighty God who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon us, pardon us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 56:1; 6-8

Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

PSALM 67 *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,

that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story:

We declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles,
this we have received and this we believe. Amen.** (cf 1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

Prayers

We pray THE COLLECT for the 11th Sunday after Trinity

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven...

FOR REFLECTION

I wonder to what degree you think Jesus was rude to the Canaanite woman. His insult about the dogs is bad enough, but perhaps initially ignoring her, not answering her at all, is the worst thing. Some may feel the need to make excuses for Jesus. Whether he was calculating or not, he certainly wanted those around him to feel his apparent rejection of the foreign woman with her foreign religious traditions. He drew reaction out of the disciples who find a woman's need and theological opinion offensive. His apparent lack of care drew the persistence of the woman into their midst. She knelt while others, familiar with Jesus stood around telling him what to do about the irritation. Jesus' behaviour provokes this dramatic movement, reaching a climax with her seizing initiative, drawing on the energy of Jesus' rejection, turning it around to make it work on him. The two most important things here, perhaps, are first that Jesus rejoices in this climax, and secondly that the woman's trust in Jesus against all the prevailing signals out-shines the trust of those closest to him, and indeed the whole community of Israel in which Jesus was nurtured. Jesus is not threatened by her apparently proving him wrong. He is not defensive or irritable. He rejoices that she gets him, and he is glad that horizons are broadened.

There is a strong theme in Hebrew scriptures of God's relationship with Israel being a blessing for the whole world, clear in today's Isaiah reading and in the Psalm which imagines all nations, all peoples and all creation celebrating God's judgement.

We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:

Think of a time when someone has at first been irritating but then turned out to be just who you needed. Give thanks for them.

Think of a time when someone has proved you wrong. Recall your reaction and, if you can, give thanks for them.

We pray for the Church's horizons to be broadened and for God to open our hearts to learn from people of other faiths who might teach us to deepen ours.

Overwhelmed by the news of fires, rising death toll in Hawaii, landslide in India, we might pray for something of the Canaanite woman's persistence and tenacity, and for such crises to become opportunities for international, inter-cultural and inter-faith collaboration.

Among those we're asked to remember at the moment, we pray for Kathy Farbrother, Tricia Howard, Gill Parkin, Jenny Watling and Adrian Kozlowski.

Among those unable to come to church we pray for Carol Fallon, Sheila Prain, Mrs Barnes and Mrs Cushnie.

Among those who have died we pray for Ernie Humpage, Joan Davies, Carol Halsey and Margaret Shepherd.

HYMN: the song of another tenacious woman of faith: [Tell out, my soul](#)

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.

(words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, based on Luke 1:46-55; music: Walter Greated)

Imagining all whom we miss, we pray for each other:

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England

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