

Morning Prayer

at home with your Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Sunday 27th August 2023
12th 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 [Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it](#)

1. Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
for by his pow'r each tree and flow'r was planned and made.
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord.

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord!*

2. Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calv'ry's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,
yet gave his life as ransom thus setting us free.

3. Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqu'ror,
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

(David J Mansell)

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: Or another form of confession

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 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

PSALM 138 *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.
For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

**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.**

Prayers

We pray THE COLLECT for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of 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

"Simon, son of Jonah..." Jesus calls Simon by his full name and evokes a biblical tradition of one curious prophet whose depression, tendency to self-pity and conflict avoidance nonetheless did not stop him from saving a whole city. Bring to mind the people who have gone before you whose mixed qualities and flaws are a perhaps sometimes contradictory bequest to you.

"...You are 'Peter,' the rock on whom I will build my church." Jesus sees extraordinary potential in rural fisherman Simon, nick naming him 'rock.' Isaiah has talked of being hewn from the same rock as our ancestors Abraham and Sarah. It is at once inspiring to think of sharing their strength, but it is also a bit confusing as they were both flawed – think of Sarah's moodiness and manipulation, especially as she marginalised Hagar, and Abraham's boyish impulsiveness so often leaving others to bear the consequences.

"Blessed are you, Simon Peter" Jesus promised: he gives him his own personalised beatitude. There is something very precious about Jesus seeing Simon for who he is, knowing at once his flaws and his potential beyond his own imagining. Feeling ourselves and the church today under that shrewd, incisive, yet unerringly loving and encouraging gaze we might shudder a bit at first, but then maybe can give in to its warmth. Spend a while under that gaze.

We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:

God, we open to you our own inheritance of character and experience, our flawed and complex families, and our own bequest to the next generation, the things we feel proud of and the things we feel embarrassed by. Help us and those who follow us make the most of our bundle of mixed motives, gifts and flaws.

God, you make waste places like Eden and the desert like a garden.
Bring gladness and joy.

Restore the voice of song. (cf Isaiah 51:3)

We bring to you, God, the contradictions of the nations:

Name the countries and regimes which come to mind, those with cultural riches to share, yet flaws, sins of aggression and oppression.

Teach us all how to live humbly with our heritage and to recognise each other's gifts.

God, you make waste places like Eden and the desert like a garden.
Bring gladness and joy.

Restore the voice of song. (cf Isaiah 51:3)

We pray for any young people feeling disheartened by exam results. Show them the way forward and lift them up. We bring to you the people we know who are unwell including Kathy Farbrother, Tricia Howard and Jenny Watling.

God, you make waste places like Eden and the desert like a garden.
Bring gladness and joy.

Restore the voice of song.

We pray for all who grieve, especially remembering Margaret Shepherd, Ernie Humpage, June Davies and Carol Halsey.

God, you make waste places like Eden and the desert like a garden.
Bring gladness and joy.

Restore the voice of song.

We pray for your church throughout the world, learning to be together once again. As we rejoice to see one another, remind the church how ridiculous most of her divisions are. Send the Spirit that inspired Peter's confession to teach us neither to think more of ourselves nor less of your power to transform than we ought.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN *as each week news from the Mediterranean, Senegal and the English Channel tells of perilous boats and tragic deaths we sing:*

HYMN [Eternal Father, strong to save](#)

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,

who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2. O Saviour, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm, amid its rage, didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.
3. O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the waters dark and rude,
and bid their angry tumult cease,
and give, for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.
4. O Trinity of love and pow'r,
our brethren shield in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go;
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

(William Whiting alt)

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

is copyright © the Archbishop's Council (2000)

