

Morning Prayer

at home with your
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Sunday 3rd September 2023

13th Sunday after Trinity

Creationtide begins

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 [Christ, whose glory fills the skies](#)

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3. Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

(words: Charles Wesley; music: Johann Gottlob Werner's 'Choralbuch', Leipzig [1815])

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

Our confession is in response to Romans 12, another of today's lectionary options.

St Paul says: Let love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection.

We confess to God the ways in which we have been dishonest and competed with one another.

Lord, have mercy.

St Paul says: Persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers.

We confess to God our laziness in prayer and the ways in which we have withheld help for friends and strangers.

Christ, have mercy.

St Paul says: Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Do not claim to be wiser than you are.

We confess to God the ways we have been arrogant, marginalised the lowly and overreached ourselves.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of

the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you." ' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations.

PSALM 115 *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.
Why should the nations say,
'Where is their God?'

Our God is in the heavens;
he does whatever he pleases.
Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
They have mouths, but do not speak;
eyes, but do not see.

They have ears, but do not hear;
noses, but do not smell.
They have hands, but do not feel;
feet, but do not walk;
they make no sound in their throats.
Those who make them are like them;
so are all who trust in them.

O Israel, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.

The LORD has been mindful of us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
he will bless those who fear the LORD,
both small and great.

May the LORD give you increase,
both you and your children.
May you be blessed by the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

The heavens are the LORD's heavens,
but the earth he has given to human beings.
The dead do not praise the LORD,
nor do any that go down into silence.
But we will bless the LORD
from this time on and for evermore.
Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:21-end

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

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 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself, help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, 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

Moses is by himself because he got in trouble, being treated as an outsider by Egyptians and Hebrews alike. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a fellow Hebrew. He was blackmailed with that fact by two Hebrews when he tried to stop them fighting each other. He'd been raised by the Pharaoh's daughter, defying her father's wicked genocide policy, but that left him in this quandary of identity. Now he keeps sheep, out of the way, out of danger.

Curiously, this very dissonance and enforced space makes possible this astonishing and moving encounter with God that will shape his life and shape the Hebrew nation.

He keeps sheep, so like Abraham before him and David and the Christmas Shepherds after him, he has a watchful, protective bearing. He notices the bush. He turns aside, because he is curious. He feels wonder, yet is also quizzical about the science of the matter: how can this be? He is open to new possibilities, so hears the voice of God. The voice describes and impossible dream: of Israel being free and having her own land. It also makes clear the irresistible fact of God being God, "I am who I am, I will be who I will be, I am being who I am being".

Moses is humble, or at least cautious: "who am I to speak to Pharaoh?", and through the next chapter will keep pushing back on God's call, setting problems in God's way, but as we know he still he stepped up to respond to the call. Centuries before Jesus, Moses exemplifies what giving up one's life in order to gain it looks like.

We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:

Moses was rescued and nurtured by a most unlikely person. Is there someone who unexpectedly protected you or nurtured you in some way? Give thanks for them and pray for anyone who steps up and protects children, challenges prejudice or works for the safeguarding of children.

Moses' dual identity might have been a problem. In the end he made it a blessing, becoming the greatest intercessor and intermediary, second only to Jesus. Consider those who intercede, mediate and peace-make today, often at great cost to themselves.

Moses was curious and inquisitive. Pray for all beginning a new educational year, that learning may be a joy in itself; may they thrive on discovery and knowledge for its own beauty.

Moses was open to the numinous. Pray for all who teach and learn, that emotional intelligence and cultural and spiritual sensitivity be as much part of our development as the gathering of facts and methods. Pray for religious literacy to grow as our culture is enriched by diversity.

Moses was afraid and reluctant, but still stepped up to advocate for justice and liberation. Pray for places needing liberation and someone to stand up for them. We pray for places bearing the violent consequences of someone being overbearing, thinking too much of themselves and over reaching.

In our community we pray for those who are unwell, including Wendy Turner, Roger Tyrrell and Mary Cushnie.

Among those who have died we remember Carol Halsey, Ernie Humpage and Margaret Shepherd.

HYMN singing the words of Mary, another courageous soul who recognised God's holiness and stepped up to a seemingly impossible calling.

[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 Greatorex)

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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