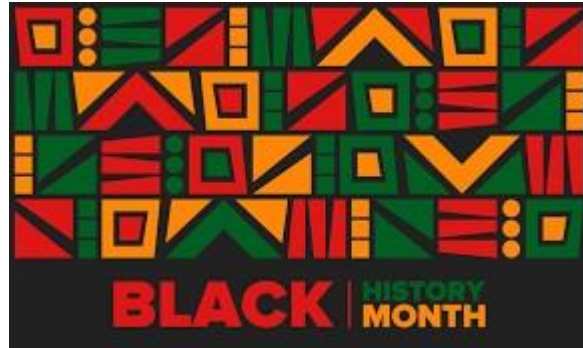


Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH



## Holy Communion in Black History Month Trinity 18, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 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:*

1. Diverse in culture, nation, race,  
we come together by your grace.  
God, let us be a meeting ground  
where hope and healing love are found.

2. God, let us be a bridge of care  
connecting people ev'rywhere.  
Help us confront all fear and hate  
and lust for pow'r that separate.

3. When chasms widen, storms arise,  
O Holy Spirit, make us wise.  
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong  
to stand with those who suffer wrong.

4. God, let us be a table spread  
with gifts of love and broken bread,  
where all find welcome, grace attends,  
and enemies arise as friends.

*(words: Ruth Duck; music: Thomas Tallis)*

*When the song finishes we stand in silence.*

HYMN [All for Jesus!](#)

1. All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
This our song shall ever be;  
for we have no hope nor Saviour  
if we have not hope in thee.

2. All for Jesus! thou wilt give us  
strength to serve thee hour by hour;  
none can move us from thy presence  
while we trust thy love and pow'r.

3. All for Jesus! at thine altar  
thou dost give us sweet content;  
there, dear Saviour, we receive thee  
in thy holy sacrament.

4. All for Jesus! thou hast loved us,  
all for Jesus! thou hast died,  
all for Jesus! thou art with us,  
all for Jesus, glorified!

5. All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
This the Church's song shall be,  
till at last the flock is gathered  
one in love, and one in thee.

*(words: William John Sparrow-Simpson alt; music: John Stainer)*

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 Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager  
longing for God's redemption. We confess our sin in penitence and faith.  
cf Romans 8.22,23,

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are  
your people: come among us and save us. We have wilfully misused  
your gifts of creation; Lord, be merciful:

**All: forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;  
Lord, be merciful:

**All: forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;  
Lord, be merciful:

**All: forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with  
others; Lord, be merciful:

**All: forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves; Lord, be merciful:

**All: forgive us our sin.**

FORGIVENESS *is declared:*

Priest: The God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you 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.

(Murray)

A COLLECT for Black History Month

Compassionate God, who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities, create in us new hearts and enlarged visions, to see the image of God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity. May we be generous in our love of others as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice; creating communities of human flourishing, 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.**

READINGS [Isaiah 5:1-7](#) and [Philippians 3:4b-14](#)

HYMN [As the deer pants for the water](#)

1. As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield;  
you alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you!*

2. I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy;  
you alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

3. You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a  
king;  
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything!

*(words & music: Martin Nystrom, arr John Barnard)*

*We remain standing for the* GOSPEL READING [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

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 offered by Lynn.*

*At home, reflect on the hurt feelings of the vineyard planter in Isaiah, God cast as an eager vintner, tending his vines, providing ideal conditions, only to be crestfallen at the bitterness of the grapes. Then, in temper, he says he will destroy it and let it be over grown. Just when we think this owner is behaving like a child having a tantrum, the sonorous declaration hits home: "I expected justice of my people, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry." It's us he is talking about, and he is right to be angry. God has created the conditions for humanity to bear the fruit of grace and generosity, but instead we bear the bitter fruit of envy, jealousy and violence.*

*There is a similar shape to Jesus' parable, clearly a riff on Isaiah's love poem. He casts God as a rather naïve seeming Vineyard owner, sending servants, then his own son, expecting some basic respect at last to tame their response. With each attack, Jesus raises our indignation at the tenants. Then, in an unusual move, he gets his hearers to finish the story, asking what they think the landowner should do. They declare a brutal sentence, then in the echo that follows realise they are the tenants. Now we, his readers, are the tenants. At least we are whenever we behave proprietorially, possessively, threateningly, whenever we bear bitter fruit of greed. As Black History Month begins, we may reflect on the times Christian Imperial Britain has asserted herself proprietorially, stealing and enslaving, becoming not the bringers of a Christian grace, but would be proprietors making Christianity look like the problem. Blue plaques are being added to some of the great buildings of that period explaining the dubious origins of the money and ideology that*

*built them. This information does not destroy the buildings, but layers our understanding of them and might prompt a re-direction of energies that we use them for more gracious purposes in future.*

*The religious leaders were meant to be part of the solution, keeping the people in touch with God's grace. Instead, they had become possessive of power, preferring resentment and judgmentalism over grace and forgiveness. This teaching follows the day after Jesus' controversial overturning of the tables in the temple and his assertion that noisy children and the people excluded on the grounds of disability should be allowed in. He is telling this vineyard parable in the heart of Israel, the very place where the authorities felt most in charge.*

*St Paul, meanwhile, is under house arrest, Rome wanting him to feel they are in charge. They cannot, however, take charge of his imagination. Imprisoned, he talks triumphantly of running a race. He talks of being conformed to Christ's death – Rome's ultimate sanction, and way of getting people to conform to their agenda. He counts his own educational qualifications as crap (perhaps a more accurate translation than "dross" or "loss") compared to the awe of knowing God in Christ.*

*In a week where an Iranian woman Narges Mohammadi is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her resistance to a brutal, patriarchal religious regime, Paul may prompt us to rejoice at her resilience of imagination, a truer witness to the best of Islam than the religious leaders whose brutality and misogyny has nothing whatsoever to do with God. Their Roman style efforts to control others' imagination through violence looks both dangerously ugly and feebly ineffective.*

## 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:*

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith:

**All: We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

## INTERCESSIONS

*At home, here are prayers offered across the Church of England for Black History Month.*

God of all peoples, whose Son reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, help us to break down the barriers in our communities, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination, and we seek your protection for those affected in our churches, our schools, our places of work and our communities. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all in our world, of whatever race, who suffer the horrors of modern slavery. Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed. We pray for all working to combat modern slavery and to end human trafficking: for governments and agencies, for Church and other faith leaders, for businesses, charities and individuals. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves. May we be voices against oppression and channels of the transforming power of the gospel. Open our hearts to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight. Help us to work for a world where human beings are valued, where no one is enslaved, and no one used against their will for another's pleasure or need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that we may know the power of reconciliation. Wherever there is division between us and others, because of our race or ethnicity, we pray that we may all be led to reconciliation. We pray for all who work to bring communities together in ways that are just and equal for all. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we pray for reconciliation, we pray also for restoration. We pray for those whose spirits and communities have been weighed down by racism. Guide us as we strive to ensure everyone has equal dignity. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Among those who are unwell we pray for Edna Freeman, Wendy Turner, Gill Parkin, Martina Osborne and Kathy Farbrother.*

*Remembering those who have died, we pray for the family of John Ritchie, Steven Jarratt, Leticia Matsveru (Tariro's Aunt), Mary Cushnie and Dorothy Adam.*

*We stand for* THE PEACE

Deacon: God calls us to peace: All in God's justice is our peace. Christ calls us to be God's people: All in Christ is our peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

SONG (From Zimbabwe, in English and Shona)

There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him  
There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

I've run around everywhere  
I've turned around everywhere  
I've searched around everywhere  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him  
There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

I've run around everywhere  
I've turned around everywhere  
I've searched around everywhere  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

Akekho ofana noJesu  
Akekho ofana naye  
Akekho ofana noJesu  
Akekho ofana naye

Sahamba hamba, akekho  
Sajika jika, akekho  
Safuna safuna, akekho  
Akekho ofana naye

Hakuna wakaita saJesu  
Hakuna wakaita saye  
Hakuna wakaita saJesu  
Haku, hakuna

Ndamhanya mhanya kwese kwese  
Ndatenderera kwese kwese  
Ndatsvaga tsvaga kwese kwese  
Haku hakuna

There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him  
There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

I've run around everywhere  
I've turned around everywhere  
I've searched around everywhere  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him  
There's no-one, there's no one like Jesus  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

I've run around everywhere  
I've turned around everywhere  
I've searched around everywhere  
There's no-one, there's no one like him

*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.**

It is our duty and our joy to thank and praise you, Father of mercies, because when the gift of your grace was rejected by your creation people you offered it to your chosen people, and when it was rejected by your chosen people you offered it once more in your Son. When your Son was rejected and crucified you did not come in wrath but came in the power of your Holy Spirit to spread the good news of restoration, reconciliation and resurrection, beginning in Jerusalem and on to the ends of the earth. And so we stand before you not in fear of your judgement but rejoicing in your abundant mercy, joining with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, to sing the hymn 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.**

You give us so much, gracious God, but everything we have is loss compared to the wondrous love we see in your Son Jesus Christ. On your Son's last night with his disciples we took away everything you gave us in him, and yet you gave us a meal. Now in this wonderful sacrament we give you everything we know how to give you, praying that you will give us Christ in the form of this meal. Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now, that we might become the body of Christ that you give us to eat. Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine and make them for us the 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 the Alpha and Omega, you are the wisdom from which we come and you are the destiny to which we are going. You abide among us, between us and within us. Where your servants are rejected, sustain them. Where your messengers are beaten, renew them. Where your children are cast out, give them hope of justice and vindication. Where your vineyard is in the hands of headstrong tenants, bring your liberation, bring your transformation, bring your righteousness, until the day comes when we and your suffering people see you face to face, ever one 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 and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink 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 and wine, now for us the body and blood of Christ.*

SONG *during Communion*

1. All heav'n declares the glory of the risen Lord.  
Who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?  
For ever he will be the Lamb upon the throne.  
I gladly bow the knee and worship him alone.

2. I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord.  
Who once was slain to reconcile us all to God.  
For ever you will be the Lamb upon the throne.  
I gladly bow the knee and worship you alone.

*(words: Tricia Richards; music: Noel Richards)*

## 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

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### HYMN [Christ is made the sure foundation](#)

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the Church in one,  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

2. To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O Lord of hosts, today;  
you have promised loving kindness,  
hear your servants as we pray,  
bless your people now before you,  
turn our darkness into day.

3. Hear the cry of all your people,  
what they ask and hope to gain;  
what they gain from you, for ever  
with your chosen to retain,  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.

4. Praise and honour to the Father,  
praise and honour to the Son,  
praise and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One,  
One in might and One in glory,  
while unending ages run.

*(words: 'Urbs beata Jerusalem' [c7th century], trans John Mason Neale alt;  
music: Henry Purcell, arr E Hawkins)*

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

*Do stay for coffee after the service if you can.*

*This evening, 6.30pm **Making Room for each other:  
Party, Party, Party**  
Mid Conference Season, with some curious examples of  
leadership in the Bible, we discuss how on earth to pray  
for our politicians and press, then have a go at doing so.*



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Eucharistic Prayer from *Joining the Angels' Song*, Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, Canterbury Press 2016