

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH



Holy Communion in Black History Month Trinity 19, Sunday 15th 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.

In Church, Margaret Shepherd's ashes are placed beside the altar, to be buried in the Memorial Garden at the end of the service.

Music as we gather:

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.
Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice.
Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice.

(words: Unknown, based on Philippians 4:4; music: Unknown, arr Christopher Tambling)

When the song finishes we stand in silence.

HYMN

1. Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
that we love him more than these.

5. Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Saviour, make us hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

(words: Cecil Frances Alexander; music: Edward Henry Thome)

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 We confess our fascination with evil, our slowness to give thanks, our
nursing of prejudice and the conflict it germinates.

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;
God, forgive us.

Save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;
God, forgive us.

Save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do and think and say;
God, forgive us.

Save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the
world about us;
God, forgive us.

Save us and help us.

For living as if we ashamed to belong to your Son;
God, forgive us.

Save us and help us.

FORGIVENESS *is declared:*

Priest: *[May]* Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *us*, pardon and deliver *us* from all *our* sins, confirm and strengthen *us* in all goodness, and keep *us* in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA (Salazaar)

Glory! Glory! Glory to God!
Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

1. Glory to God in the heights of the heavens.
Peace to God's people, all people on earth.
2. Son of the Father, all glory and worship;
praise and thanksgiving to you, Lamb of God.
3. You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.
4. Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.
5. And with the Spirit of love everlasting,
reigning in glory for ever. Amen.

A COLLECT for the nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 25:1-9](#) and [Philippians 4:1-9](#)

HYMN

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2. In him shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord,
close binding humankind.

3. Join hands, united in the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
who serve my Father as their own
are surely kin to me.

4. In Christ now meet both east and
west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christlike souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

(words: John Oxenham alt; music: Neil Dougall)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

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 Tariro.*

At home, if given the terrifying brutalities of last week's slaughter in Israel and this week's devastation and displacement in Gaza, like many of us you struggle to focus on anything excellent, just, pure, commendable or praise-worthy, sit with Isaiah's vision for a while. Imagine Israel and Gaza's plight as a "shroud cast over the people." Hear Isaiah's prayer for the "song of the ruthless," so ugly and triumphant, to be silenced. The ultimate vision of both Hamas and Israel's governors is the destruction of the other. Isaiah's ultimate vision is for all people to be able to feast together, right there, on the holy mountain. Try to hold on to that vision.

As we heard last week, Paul writes his gracious, ebullient, hopeful letter from prison. Rome fails to dominate his imagination as, instead of thinking of the brutality, pain and confinement they bring, he chooses as an act of will to seek out anything lovely, praiseworthy and excellent and dwells on that. In the hardest circumstances, St Paul insists on finding things to give thanks for. Thanksgiving is an antidote to bitterness and hatred. Ingratitude is a theme in Jesus' parable as

some refuse the gift of a meal, then someone attends the meal with a sense of shrugging carelessness and is thrown out.

Seek out anything you can find in the news, even the hardest news, that might be a small seed of thanksgiving. Even amidst the appalling destruction, the ghastly anti semitic demonstrations, the shouty righteousness, the bitter grief, perhaps some of the humanitarian agencies, courageous journalists, the heroic medics might be brought to the fore in our imagination, preparing us for prayer.

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 and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist.**

**We believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again.**

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world.**

**This is the faith of the Church.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(adapted from Common Worship)

INTERCESSIONS

At home, see if you can turn your reflections about Gaza and Israel into prayers for the good and worthy people who are surely to be found among the ruins. Pray that the hatred may not spread as fast or as contagiously as generosity, courage and humanitarian care.

Among those who are unwell we pray for Roger Tyrrell and Wendy Turner.

Remembering those who have died, we pray for the family of John Ritchie, Steven Jarratt, Leticia Matsveru, Mary Cushnie and Dorothy Adam.

We stand for THE PEACE

Deacon: God calls us to peace: in God's justice is our peace. Christ calls us to be God's people: 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 [Dignity and grace](#)

1. When I receive the peace of Christ
my loneliness shall end;
and I must reach a hand and take
my brother as a friend,
my brother as a friend indeed
who has an honoured place
where he may stand before the Lord
in dignity and grace.

2. When I receive the peace of Christ
my loneliness shall end;
and I must reach a hand and take
my sister as a friend,
my sister as a friend indeed
who has an honoured place
where she may stand before the Lord
in dignity and grace.

3. When I receive the peace of Christ
my loneliness shall end;
and I must reach a hand and take
my own self as a friend,
my own self as a friend indeed
who has an honoured place
where I may stand before the Lord
in dignity and grace.

4. When I receive the peace of Christ
my loneliness shall end;
and I must reach a hand and take
Christ Jesus as a friend,
Christ Jesus as a friend indeed
who has an honoured place
where now he stands amongst us all
in dignity and grace.

(words: Michael Mair; music: Traditional English carol melody, arr Martin Shaw)

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.

Worthy of all praise are you, God of Moses, for you made humankind in your image; male and female you created us, in your likeness, to reveal your glory. When your chosen people lost faith and cast a false image for themselves in the form of a golden calf, you reminded them they were created in your likeness. In the fullness of time, when we sought after lesser gods, you cast yourself in human form, as one of us, to reshape in us your divine image through the cross of your Son and the power of the Holy Spirit, to make us holy as you are holy, reflecting your eternal glory. And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn.

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.

Feasting God, as we share in this wedding banquet of Christ and your Church, draw heaven and earth together as one in you. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to clothe us in perfecting grace for joining the feast of saints. Sanctify this bread and cup to make them be for us the body and blood of our Saviour 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.**

Faithful God, receive the supplications of your church and bestow upon your children the peace that passes all understanding. Empower your people to embody whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just. Inspire your sons and daughters to pursue whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable. Shape the life of your church around whatever is excellent and worthy of praise. Hasten the day when every heart and mind in union with Christ Jesus shall rejoice in that perfect peace of your coming kingdom and be made eternally new in your image, Trinity of every grace, now and for ever.

**Amen siyakudumisa.
Amen siyakudumisa.
Amen bawo, amen, bawo,
amen siyakudumisa.**

(words: Traditional South African; music: Attributed to S C Molefe)

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.

HTMN during Communion [The Lord's my shepherd](#)

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me lie in pastures green, he leads me by the still, still waters, his goodness restores my soul.	<i>And I will trust in you alone, and I will trust in you alone, for your endless mercy follows me, your goodness will lead me home.</i>
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2. He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil;
and my cup – it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.

3. And though I walk the darkest path –
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and
staff
are the comfort I need to know.

(words & music: Stuart Townend, based on Psalm 23)

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

[May] The peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep *our* hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always . **Amen.**

HYMN

1. Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.

2. King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
kingship with him his servants gain:
with Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.

3. Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
this world of thine to consecrate,
our world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's world in Christ to re-create.

4. Prophets of Christ, we hear his Word:
he claims our minds to search his ways;
he claims our lips to speak his truth;
he claims our hearts to sing his praise.

5. We are his Church, he makes us one;
here is one hearth for all to find;

here is one flock, one Shepherd-King;
here is one faith, one heart, one mind.

(words: James Quinn; music: Melody attributed to John Hatton)

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

The cross leads the way to the Memorial Garden where any who wish to gather as we bury Margaret Shepherd's ashes there.

Do stay for coffee after the service if you can.

In the garden:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Though we are dust and ashes, God has prepared for us a heavenly dwelling place. At her funeral, we commended Margaret into the hands of Almighty God. As we prepare to commit her remains to the earth, we remember her trust in God's loving care and, perhaps, if we feel able, accept for ourselves that "the eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms."
(Deut 33:27)

Let us pray.

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that men and women are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of your daughter Margaret, for the love and mercy she received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your children, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with Margaret that clearer vision they now enjoy, when we shall see your face in the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Grave is sprinkled with Holy Water and the Priest prays:

O God, whose son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb: bless, we pray, this grave as the place where the remains of Margaret may rest in peace. **Amen.**

With thanksgiving for her life, we now fulfil our duty by returning Margaret's remains to the ground as earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The ashes are placed in the ground.

God give us confidence in the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died, was buried and rose again for us. **Amen.**

PRAYERS for the future, remembering Margaret.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

*This evening, 6.30pm **Making Room for Creation***

Blessings at Summer's End

Join us for our monthly service offering a reflective space in the tradition of the Iona community. There will be an invitation to be creative with colour and light at this turning of the seasons.

***Photographs** may occasionally be taken by an appointed person during services. They are to record our church's story and may be used for publicity. If you do not wish your picture or that of your child to be used, please speak to a Sidesperson or Churchwarden. We respectfully ask that others do not take photographs at Church without permission.*

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