

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Well done, good and faithful servant Holy Communion

Second Sunday before Advent, 19th November 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. Light a candle for thanksgiving! Sing to God for Christ the Lord!
Born to Mary, dying, living; still the Spirit speaks his word.
Welcome ev'ry tower pealing, celebrate two thousand years!
Years of grace and years revealing Christ where Christ-like love appears.
2. Light a candle for achievers! Marvel at their range of thought:
artists, scientists, believers famed for what their hands have wrought.
For the feats of engineering, for each fresh, creative probe;
ev'ry benefit appearing, spread across a shrinking globe.
3. Light a candle for the nation and the future of its youth!
Build with them on this foundation: love, security and truth.
Christ the Lord, by patience winning many a household, many a heart,
set ablaze their faith's beginning, journey with them from the start.
4. Light a candle for tomorrow! Ask that countries may walk free:
truly free, not bound to borrow, but released for jubilee.
One has come among us bearing news that prisoners are restored:
let his voice move us to sharing – sing to God for Christ the Lord!

(words: David Mowbray; music: Martin Setchell)

When the song finishes we stand in silence.

HYMN

1. [Awake, my soul, and with the sun](#)

thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay thy morning sacrifice.

2. Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past,
and live this day as if thy last;
improve thy talent with due care;
for the great day thyself prepare.

3. Let all thy converse be sincere,
thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
think how all-seeing God thy ways
and all thy secret thoughts surveys.

4. Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
and with the angels bear thy part,
who all night long unwearied sing
high praise to the eternal King.

5. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, angelic host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(words: Thomas Ken alt; music: François Hippolyte Barthélémon)

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: My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Silence

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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 (Murray)

[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.

A COLLECT for Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

READINGS [Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end](#) and [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

HYMN 1. [Make way, make way](#), for Christ the King in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;
make way, make way, and let his kingdom in!*

2. He comes the broken hearts to heal, the pris'ners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.

4. We call you now to worship him as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him, their thrones must fall.

(words & music: Graham Kendrick)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

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 *from John Parkin, marking his retirement as Reader.*

For those at home, it will be posted on the website soon.

We affirm our faith

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church:

APOSTLE'S CREED

Deacon: We stand to declare our faith in God, made known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All: 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.**

INTERCESSIONS

For those at home, responding to Jesus' Parable of Talents:

Pray for the Church that we recognise and set free the gifts God has given his people. Pray for all testing a vocation to ordination or Reader ministry.

Think of those whose talents are underestimated because of dyslexia, or ADHD. Pray for them and the classroom assistants and specialists who may help liberate them.

Think of those asylum seekers whose talents are underused because they are buried under migration bureaucracy, forbidding their work or delaying their schooling.

The harsh language of God's judgement in Zephaniah is difficult to hear, but read it again as images of the destruction in Gaza surface in your mind. We might turn this into a prayer that God search Jerusalem and Gaza with lamps and expose anything that needs to be exposed if we are to find peace there.

Gold and silver will not save, cries the prophet. We pray for any whose soul is oppressed and distracted by wealth.

Among those who are unwell, we pray for Norman Brookes and Paul Caney.

We remember those who have died including John Barlow and Dorothy Jones.

We stand for THE PEACE

Deacon: You are children of light. Encourage one another and build up each other as indeed you are doing. The peace of the Lord be always with you. (1 Thessalonians 5:5;11)

All: and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN 1. [O Lord, my God](#), when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand has made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art.*

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how great thou art, how great thou art.*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
when I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art.

*(words: 'O Støre Gud' by Karl Boberg, trans Stuart K Hine;
music: Swedish folk melody, arr Stuart K Hine)*

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.

OFFERTORY THANKSGIVING PRAYER *for* John Parkin.

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death, and so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and singing:

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that

broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and , taking bread, he praise you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

A bell is rung

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praise you, gave it to them and said: 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

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did. In him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **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.*

SONGS *during Communion*

1. In a world where people walk in darkness,
let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the day-star scattering our night.

*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*

2. In a world where suffering of the helpless
casts a shadow all along the way,
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
and proclaim the dawning of the day.

3. Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
as a sign of peace in place of strife.

(words: Robert Willis; music: Richard Shephard)

1. [Take my hands, Lord](#), to share in your labours,
take my eyes, Lord, to see your needs,
let me hear the voice of lonely people,
let my love, Lord, bring riches to the poor.

2. Give me someone to feed when I'm hungry,
When I'm thirsty give water for their thirst.
When I stand in need of tenderness,
give me someone to hold who longs for love.

3. Keep my heart ever open to others,
may my time, Lord, be spent with those in need;
may I tend to those who need your care.
Take my life, Lord, and make it truly yours,
take my life, Lord, and make it truly yours.

(words: vv1 & 3 Margaret Rizza, v2 unknown; music: Margaret Rizza)

We are sent out

We pray **Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

[May] God who has nourished us with himself, the living bread, make *you* one in praise and love, and raise *us* up at the last day; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always . **Amen.**

HYMN [Ye servants of God](#)

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all victorious of Jesus extol:
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh: his presence we have:
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

3. Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4. Then let us adore, and give him his right:
all glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might,
and honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

(words: Charles Wesley; music: from the 'Paderborn Gesangbuch' [1765])

Deacon: 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.



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This evening, 6.30pm service in the Iona tradition

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