

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## Christ the King Holy Communion

Sunday before Advent, 26<sup>th</sup> 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: [I owe my Lord a morning song](#)*

1. I owe my Lord a morning song  
for God has meant this day.  
Through fears of night and hidden  
light  
God moves and wills my way.

2. I owe my Lord a morning song  
for Jesus rose at dawn;  
he made death die and would not lie  
that others might live on.

3. I owe my Lord a morning song;  
the Spirit gave me voice,  
nor did she force my soul to praise  
but honoured me with choice.

4. I owe my Lord a morning song.  
How can I help but sing  
when God is all in all, and I  
am one with everything?

*(words: John L Bell; music: Traditional English melody, arr Martin Shaw)*

*When the song finishes we stand in silence.*

HYMN [At the name of Jesus](#)

1. At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,  
ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,

who, from the beginning, was the mighty word.

2. At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,  
all the angels' faces, all the hosts of light,  
thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,  
all the heav'nly orders in their great array.

3. Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

4. Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures to the central height,  
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,  
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

5. In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
all that is not holy, all that is not true;  
crown him as your captain in temptation's hour;  
let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r.

6. Truly, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

*(words: Caroline Maria Noel alt; music: Michael Brierley)*

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 (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 Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King; keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS [Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#) and [Ephesians 1:15-end](#)

SONG *(We sing 3 times)*

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him and say that we love him;  
open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen;  
O, open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus!

*We remain standing for the* GOSPEL READING [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

**All:** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**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 from Tariro.*

*At home: In preparation for prayer, hear Jesus name fearful circumstances: hunger, thirst, imprisonment, nakedness, loneliness. Consider how all these are being experienced at once in Gaza.*

*Spend some time nearer to home thinking about the different ways in which people are imprisoned, isolated, the different kinds of hunger we can experience – spiritual hunger, thirst for love, for instance. Think about the charities, agencies and individuals you know of who address such needs.*

*You will be pleased to hear that one homeless neighbour with whom many of us will have spoken in the street in Kings Heath, often confused and depressed by drugs, has recently been released from prison where, over some weeks, he has cleansed himself of drugs and challenged the Probation Service not to release him to the different "prison" or trap of homelessness. They have found him accommodation and, though required to stay away from Kings Heath for the time being, he looks magnificently well, composed, articulate and confident. Perhaps the Probation Officer involved does not know that in attending to the needs of someone counted the least, they have tended to Christ.*

## We affirm our faith

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

Deacon: Brothers and sisters, we stand and affirm our faith:

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every other name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow.  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

(From Philipppians chapter 2)

INTERCESSIONS *in church are led by Di Evans.*

*For those at home:*

*We pray for those who will use any pause in hostilities as a chance to take aid to strangers in Gaza: to the sick, those imprisoned by fighting, the hungry and thirsty. We pray for those facilitating the return of hostages from Israeli prisons and hostages in Gaza. In bravely tending to them, they attend to you, Christ, our hidden king.*

*We pray for the Probation Service and all who help people in the transition from prison to freedom.*

*We rejoice in praying for our seven friends being confirmed at the Cathedral this morning: Sam, Marion, Val, Theo, Abel, Joel, and Joseph.*

*Among those who are unwell we pray for Janet Tilley, Paul Caney, Ingrid and Tricia, Janet Franks, and Kathy Farbrother recovering from surgery last week,*

*Among those who have died we remember Norman Brookes, Dorothy Jones, Roger Barlow, Dorothy Adams, Eric James and Pat Flynn.*

*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 [Rejoice, the Lord is King](#)

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

2. Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,

he took his seat above.

3. His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus giv'n.

4. He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet.

*(words: Charles Wesley; music: George Frideric Handel)*

*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, God of heaven and earth; for you are our shepherd, who called Abraham by name, gathered a people under Moses, fed your flock in the wilderness and led them out of Egypt and Babylon to take refuge in your sheepfold. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus to be our shepherd king, leading us beside still waters, delivering us from the valley of the shadow of death and restoring our souls. And so with all your gathered flock, with sheep that are not of this fold and with saints and angels surrounding your glorious throne, we praise your name and 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.**

Abundant God, you bestow upon your people the riches of your glorious inheritance and the immeasurable greatness of your power. You send upon your disciples the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Send now that same Spirit to breathe upon your church and make it resound with your praise. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 of glory, you sent Jesus to be our prophet, priest and king and you show us his face in the face of those on whom the world turns its back.

As the tempted Christ was hungry in the wilderness, make yourself known to all who search for food.

As the crucified Christ was thirsty hanging on the tree, reveal your love among those who lack clean water.

As the infant Christ was a stranger in Egypt, manifest your visage through any who are pilgrims from afar.

As the newborn Christ was naked in the manger, live in all who experience shame and exposure.

As Christ in his passion was sick to the heart in Gethsemane, declare your grace amongst those who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

And as Christ under judgement was a prisoner under Pontius Pilate, be with all who are incarcerated by folly, injustice or fear.

Renew your Church by making it resemble Jesus, our crucified King, our saviour, Lord and friend with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for 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. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

2. Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray,  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctu'ry, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need.

*God of the poor...*

5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,  
until your justice burns brightly again;  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor...*

*(words & music: Graham Kendrick)*

## 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]* the God hope fill *us* with all joy and peace in believing and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

### HYMN [Thou didst leave thy throne](#)

1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown  
when thou camest to earth for me,  
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
for thy holy nativity.

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for thee.*

2. Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang  
and proclaimed thee of royal degree,  
but in lowliest birth didst thou come to earth  
and in deepest humility.

3. Though the fox found rest, and the bird its nest  
in the shade of the cedar tree,  
yet the world found no bed for the Saviour's head  
in the desert of Galilee.

4. Though thou camest, Lord, with the living word  
that should set all thy people free,  
yet with treachery, scorn and a crown of thorn  
did they bear thee to Calvary.

5. When the heav'ns shall ring and the angels sing  
at thy coming to victory,  
let thy voice call me home, saying, "Heav'n has room,  
there is room at my side for thee."

*(words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliot, based on Luke 2:7, adapt Michael Forster;  
music: Timothy Richard Matthews)*

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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Eucharistic Prayer from *Joining the Angels' Song*, Samuel Wells and  
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*This evening, 6.30pm service Making Room for God: a service of devotion, rich in song and prayer.*

*Christmas Craft Fayre in Church, Saturday morning, 2<sup>nd</sup> December.*

*Advent Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Kings Heath Business Association switch on the Christmas Lights at 4.30, then Carol Service in Church 5pm with Central England Concert Band, followed by a free hot meal courtesy of Kings Heath businesses.*

**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.

**All Saints Safeguarding** and Child Protection Coordinator is Eira Jones. if you have any concerns or worries about children, young people or vulnerable adults and don't know what to do don't hesitate to contact her on 07497 781681.