

Morning Prayer

at home with your
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

All Saints

Sunday 5th November 2023

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's is the world](#)

1. Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.

*To the lost Christ shows his face;
to the unloved he gives his embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes with his friends a touching place.*

2. Feel for the people we most avoid,
strange or bereaved or never employed;
feel for the women, and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain.
3. Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
feel for the women whom men have defiled,
feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
and feel for the weary who find no rest.
4. Feel for the lives by life confused,
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

(John L Bell & Graham Maule)

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

We take time to imagine the ways in which our behaviour and choices might be exasperating to Jesus, who came to show his intimate understanding of our lives.

Invitation to confession:

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

We confess:

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Word of God

READINGS [Revelation 7: 9 - 17](#) and [1 John 3:1-3](#)

PSALM 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

GOSPEL READING [Matthew 5: 1 - 12](#)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story, and declare our faith in God:

**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.**

Prayers

We pray THE COLLECT

O ALMIGHTY God, who has knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow your blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which you have prepared for those who truly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR REFLECTION

The book of revelations gives us John's vision of heaven as he paints a picture for us to use our imagination to draw out. As we celebrate All Saints Day we pause and with our imagination gaze towards heaven where in our reading we are told of all those wearing white robes who are said to 'have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' Their lives were not without challenges or struggles but it says they came out of the great ordeal. More importantly, it says a great multitude 'that no one could count, from

every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,' meaning heaven is not exclusive to one group of people but for people from all walks of life. We think of all those who have gone before us, who fought the good fight of faith and through their lives we remain encouraged, are taught, and strengthened in faith.

First John then comes to affirm our identity as God's children as he adds 'all who have hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.' We are being encouraged to do away with things that are worldly, things that are contrary to the things of God. We pause to reflect on ourselves and our lives and think of what it means to have our identity in Christ and how that can help us/ how we can be encouraged in everyday living.

Jesus's sermon on the mount come then to help us differentiate those things that are worldly from the things of the spirit. While the world may say we should seek more power for ourselves, Jesus teaches us to be meek, and so his teachings go and each giving the promise of heaven which takes us to the image that John paints in Revelation where the saints are seen in their multitude standing before the throne and we too having led pure lives can join in with the saints and sing and rejoice

The saints as we hear them did not live lives that were free from trouble, challenges or perfect but they had God on their side to help them. With these connections being drawn and given to us, we each reflect on what does celebrating All Saints mean for you ...

We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:

We offer prayers of thanks for all the saints that have gone ahead of us and all that they teach ...

We bring our thoughts and feelings on what it means to have our identity in God and ask for his help especially when it is challenging to see that...

We think of those especially in leadership in war torn countries, for those who throw attacks and we pray for a revelation in their hearts on how to relate with other children of God...

We pray for a day of rejoicing for all God's children throughout the world where there will be peace for all...

We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers:

- Among those who are unwell we pray for John and Jeanne Wesson (John was David's training incumbent at St Martin's in the Bull Ring).
- Among those who have died we remember Dorothy Jones, Sara Packer and Patrick Sullivan.

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven...

HYMN [Lord, thy church on earth is seeking](#)

1. Lord, thy church on earth is seeking
thy renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of thy love.
We would heed thy great commission:
"Go now into every place –
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace."

2. Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within.
Light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife:
those and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

3. In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell;
to all lands and peoples bringing
all the richness of thy word,
till the world, thy praises singing,
hails thee Christ, Redeemer, Lord.

(words: Hugh Sherlock; music: Cyril Vincent Taylor)

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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