

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Walking blamelessly with the Almighty

Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Lent, 25th February 2024

We gather

If you are 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: Lent prose

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.*

1. To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen O Jesu, to our supplications.

2. O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

3. God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

4. Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

5. Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced:
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

(arr J H Arnold)

When the song ends we stand to sing: [New every morning is the love](#)

1. New ev'ry morning is the love
our wak'ning and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and pow'r and thought.

2. New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiv'n,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heav'n.

3. If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

4. Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
as more of heav'n in each we see;
some soft'ning gleam of love and prayer
shall dawn on ev'ry cross and care.

5. The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we need to ask,
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

6. Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and ev'ry day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

(words: John Keble, based on Lamentations 3:23; music: Samuel Webbe)

Priest: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

All: And also with you.

WELCOME, BANNS 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: The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Silence

God, embroiled in daily struggles, forgive us for losing sight of you, forgetting you are our source and our destiny.

Kyrie eleison.

God, when we are buffeted by circumstance, forgive us for not being aware of your presence as we walk before you though the turmoil.

Christe eleison.

God, when we react badly to the shocks and fears the world provokes, forgive us: we know we are not blameless.

Kyrie eleison.

("Lord, have mercy," tune from Ukraine)
(Biddings cf Genesis 17:1)

ABSOLUTION At home we pray for forgiveness. In church, the priest declares forgiveness for all, wherever we worship:

Priest: *[May]* the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray COLLECT for The Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING [Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)

PSALM 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

NEW TESTAMENT READING [Romans 4:13-end](#)

HYMN [Just as I am, without one plea](#)

1. Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

2. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears, within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

4. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

5. Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down,
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

6. Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

(words: Charlotte Elliott; music: Arthur Henry Brown)

GOSPEL READING [Mark 8:31-end](#)

In church we stand and, when it is announced, we say:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON in Church is from David.

AT HOME: In Genesis 17:1 God said to Abraham: "I am God almighty..."

As our confession reflected, sometimes strong forces come to dominate our imagination. Think of some of those influences – not always in themselves bad or wrong - and consider how they work upon your heart: advertising, preoccupation with health, financial constraints, litanies of bad news in the media, social media, wars and rumours of wars, political claims and counter claims, religious loyalties.

God being "almighty" doesn't merely mean he's bigger and stronger and can vanquish all such forces. More than that, it establishes in the imagination that God is the source and destiny of all life. Remembering that bald fact sometimes has to be a discipline at first, but then in time can become a feeling of deep security; a restoration of perspective. It can put our fears in their place and prepare us for better judgement about the needs and possibilities before us.

"Walk before me," God went on. At first the thought of God knowing our every move and thought is unsettling. Can't I have some secrets? But in a little while it is a relief. To walk always knowing God knows us is to be liberated from shame and guilt. Just as our behaviour adjusts when we are with people we love to the kinds of behaviour that feels good with them, if we discipline ourselves to keep aware of God's knowing company, quite naturally our behaviour should adjust to the kind of behaviour that is relaxed with God. Being aware that all we do is in God's gaze is less than a fearsome scrutiny, and more an enveloping assurance that God wants us to know fullness of life, and so tunes our instincts to His/Hers/Theirs.

"...and be blameless," God asserted. While this can and sometimes should be heard as an ethical call to a right code of conduct, perhaps it is more existential: more a call to the joy of integrity, the wholeness of a life dominated by God rather than the forces and preoccupations we reflected on earlier. Abraham gets fully stuck in to the turmoil of the world, and will make some awful mistakes, but somehow his head keeps up, looking out and listening for God even in the stormiest times.

Jesus faces his disciples with the harsh truth that awareness of God almighty as source and destiny of all life can lead to conflict with worldly powers such as Empire that want you to treat them as source of decision making and controller of your destiny. Blamelessness can seem provocative to the world. Generosity is a threat to the selfish. Hope can seem insulting to the needy. In the starkest terms, using the most famous emblem of Roman dominance, the cross, Jesus names the provocation and judges the world's reaction. He knows he will display the generosity of God and, walking blamelessly among us, will be rejected precisely because we find his integrity threatening. I wonder if you have ever seen someone rejected precisely for bringing the solution, or for showing integrity, or for being generous in a way that showed up the meanness around them.

Spend some time repeating this verse meditatively, allowing the presence of God almighty to surround you and feel God's gaze upon you. Ask yourself what "blameless" might look like in your life.

We affirm our faith

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

At home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith:

Deacon: I invite you stand as we affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**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

Pray for anyone who came to mind in your reflection who has been harmed for speaking truth or showing integrity.

We pray God's gaze to be felt by those who seek to control others through fear: from dictators to gang leaders, from coercive controllers to those threatening MPs, from religious tyrants to school playground bullies.

Among those in our community and networks who are unwell, we remember Irene Mountford, Mike and Rosie Cross and Adrian Kozlowski beginning radiotherapy.

Among those who have died, we remember Ingrid Patrick, Gordon Middleton and Suzy Singh.

THE PEACE

Deacon: Christ came to preach peace to those who are far off and peace to those who are near. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [O Lord, my God](#)

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.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
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, first praying:

God, whose Spirit unites and inspires us, with this symbolic meal
bind me into the fellowship of the world wide church, and assure
me of my place in your heart. **Amen.**

We tell the story of God's faithfulness

In Church we stand, if able, for the Eucharistic Prayer

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

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.

Glory to you, God of Abraham and Sarah, for you uphold every hope of redemption and upon you rests eternity. In every age you have called your people to receive your blessing by faith, trusting not in their own righteousness but the promise that rests for ever on your grace. In Christ you came to bear the weight of our sin, carry our offences and take up the hope of our salvation and, through your power, the cross he bears across his shoulders has become for us the resurrection and the life. 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.**

Renewing God, through the cross of Christ you redeem our failures by welcoming us to the feast of the forgiven. As there is nothing we can give you in return for our life, send your Holy Spirit to meet us in the grace of this meal and send your Spirit upon this bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of 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.**

Saving God, show your church the path of life. Give each one of your children courage and wisdom to take up their cross and follow you. Stretch every heart with compassion for the heavy burdens their neighbours carry, and transform all who are weighed down to become carriers of one another's burdens. Come alongside any who shoulder heavy cares alone and give them companions in walking each step. Take upon yourself the suffering of all who bear impossible weights at the demand of another, are forced to labour, or given no rest, until all that is bowed low in sin or weighed down by struggle is lifted up and carried by your grace and transcended in your glory, ever reigning God, forever one, 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. Eat in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us peace.

We share the bread and wine, now for us the body and blood of Christ. All are welcome to receive. If you prefer not to share the common cup, receiving just the bread is as much communion as receiving both. If you prefer not to receive but would value a prayer of blessing do come forward and simply keep your hands by your sides. We will pray for you.

For the sake of those with gluten intolerance, please do not dip your wafer in the wine.

SONG during Communion **Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away**

1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us: and we remember the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.
2. The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, torn for you: eat and remember the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.
3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you: drink and remember he drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.
4. And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond and to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ as his Body here on earth.
As we share in his suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

(words & music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend)

We are sent out

**All: 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

Christ give *us* grace to grow in holiness, to deny *ourselves*, take up *our* cross and follow him, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

SONG [Sent by the Lord am I](#) (*sing 3 times*)

Sent by the Lord am I; my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes.

Sent by the Lord am I; my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is mine to do, to set it really free.
Oh, help me to obey; help me to do your will.

(words: Jorge Maldonado; music: Central American folk melody, arr John L Bell)

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

*This evening's service of worship is at 6.30pm Making Room
for God in the Wilderness*



This order of service is
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PHOTOGRAPHY

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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.

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Giving to All Saints

If you wish to contribute financially to sustain All Saints Church and our ministry to Kings Heath you can:

- leave a gift of cash on the collection plate on your way out of church;
- use the card reader near the Church door;
- make a transfer to

HSBC - Sort Code 40-11-15

All Saints Kings Heath PCC - A/C No. 71801163.

If you would like to find out about arrangements for regular giving to All Saints, please speak to Steve Brittle about the Parish Giving Scheme.

The **blue envelopes** for church giving for this forthcoming financial year will be available shortly. Please note that this is the *FINAL* year that we will be using them as they are now not financially viable. If you are concerned in any way about this, please do speak to either Steve Brittle, our Treasurer, or Martha Ann Brookes, our gift aid treasurer.