

Morning Prayer

at home with your
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Third Sunday of Lent

3rd March 2024

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 [All creatures of our God and King](#)

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

O praise him...

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:

O praise him...

4. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.
O praise him...

*(words: William Henry Draper alt, based on the 'Cantico di Frate Sole' of St Francis of Assisi;
music: 'Geistliche Kirchengesang', Cologne [1623], arr Ralph Vaughan Williams)*

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 confess:

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking and speaking: the hurts I have done to others, and good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We keep silence, then pray:

May almighty God who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon us, pardon us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word of God

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

PSALM 25:1-9 *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

GOSPEL READING John 2:13-22

The Passover was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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 for the third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven...

FOR REFLECTION

In Church we are hosting an exhibition of messages to the Earth from Muslim children responding to the environmental crisis. While you may not, at home, have the chance to see it, we can still each make our own response to the question: what do you want to say to the Earth in the light of the climate emergency we have provoked? Some of the children wrote letters, some made art. One very striking image was of a globe, of the kind you see on a stand which you can roll around with your fingers. This one was beginning to melt.

You could spend time composing a message in words or painting or drawing something to express your feelings, confessions, apologies or hopes for creation.

Dwelling on Jesus' stormy, disruptive entrance into the Temple, ask yourself what things have been normalised as respectable which are damaging and need overturning today.

Ask yourself what we have idolised in such a way as to generate the climate emergency.

Ponder what habits in trade have proven destructive or unhealthy or distracting from what we ought to be giving our attention to.

Ask where worldly wisdom seems to you to have turned out to be foolishness. (1 Cor 1)

We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:

If you have managed to compose a message, or artistic expression, however simple, that may be your best prayer.

In our community we remember those who are unwell including, among those worshipping at home: Jenny Watling, Sheilagh Prain, Noreen Hart and Gill Parkin. We remember Irene Mountford.

You could punctuate your prayers saying aloud the words from our New Testament reading:

**"God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.
God's weakness is stronger than human strength."**

HYMN [Praise and thanksgiving](#)

1. Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
for all things living you have made good;
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. Lord, bless the labour we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbour we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you;
harvesting, milling, for daily bread.
3. Father, providing food for your children,
your wisdom guiding teaches us share
one with another, so that, rejoicing,
sister and brother may know your care.
4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people;
each one confessing your gracious hand:
where you are reigning no one will hunger;
your love sustaining fruitful the land.

(Albert F Bailey alt)

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

is copyright © the Archbishop's Council (2000)

