

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## Mothering Sunday Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday of Lent, 10<sup>th</sup> March 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. Perhaps today you might also place some flowers or another thing you find simply beautiful.*

Today the Royal School of Church Music is celebrating Women Composer Sunday, and we have chosen music to reflect this - the congregational hymns have all either been composed, or had texts written or translated, by women writers, and we sing two anthems by women composers: before the service we sing *Come together everybody* which our own Sarah Baker wrote for the 2022 Commonwealth Games (2024's Commonwealth Day is tomorrow); and, during communion, *Peace I leave with you* by Amy Beach (1867-1944), who composed the first symphony by an American woman to be published.

The work of women composers is becoming increasingly prominent in the canon of church music, and it is notable that a lot of the new pieces that we discover (and a few of the old) come from women writers, but there is certainly much more out there - if you have ideas of music written by women, or indeed by any people who have traditionally been marginalised, then do please let us know.

*In our liturgy today at several points we change the default setting male nouns and pronouns for female when referring to God who, Genesis says, made us in God's image, male and female. This is not to cajole anyone, but is a simple invitation to explore how our language enriches or limits our understanding of God.*



MUSIC *as we gather:*

Come! Come all people!

If all people come together sharing hope and love  
they can build a brighter future where ev'ryone plays a part.  
As we share what we know together we'll grow  
and we'll do greater things 'cos we're not alone.  
Come together ev'rybody as friends and family;  
we're connected, not divided, there's strength in our diversity.

When all people come together sharing hope and love  
we will build a brighter future where ev'ryone plays a part.  
As we share what we know together we'll grow  
and we'll do greater things 'cos we're not alone.

Come together ev'rybody as friends and family;  
we're connected, not divided, there's strength in our diversity.  
Come together ev'rybody as friends and family;  
we're connected, not divided,  
there's strength, support and pow'r and love and hope in our  
diversity;  
we are family.

*(words & music: Sarah Baker)*

*When the song ends we stand to sing:* [All things bright and beautiful](#)

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

1. Each little flow'r that opens, each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings.
2. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.
3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one.
4. The tall trees in the greenwood, the meadows for our play,  
the rushes by the water, to gather ev'ry day.
5. He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

*(words: Cecil Frances Alexander; music: William Henry Monk)*

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.

**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: Blessed be God, the mother of all mercies, who consoles us in all our affliction, so we may be able to console others. (cf 2 Corinthians 2:3)

*Silence*

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:  
Mother, have mercy.

*We sing:* **Kyrie eleison.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christe eleison.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:.  
Spirit, have mercy.  
**Kyrie eleison.**

("Lord" being ubiquitous, but problematic to feminise,  
this Kyrie is adapted from Common Worship)

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

**May almighty God, who sent her Son into the world to save sinners, bring us pardon and peace, now and for ever. Amen.**

*We pray* A COLLECT Mothering Sunday

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 2:1-10

### PSALM 34:8; 11-20

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*mp dolce* *mf*

Capo 1 D / A A7 Bm G D G / B D / A A7

Choir

Response

Congregation

Response: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Choir

Come, children, and hear me  
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who is he who longs for life  
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?

Congregation

Response

Choir

Then keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Turn aside from evil and do good;  
seek and strive after peace.

Congregation

Response

Choir

The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal.

Congregation

Response

Choir

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Congregation

Response

Choir

Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Congregation

Response



NEW TESTAMENT READING Colossians 3:12-17

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=576732002>

SONG [Come on and celebrate](#) (*sing twice*)

Come on and celebrate his gift of love,  
we will celebrate the Son of God  
who loved us and gave us life.

We'll shout your praise, O King,  
you give us joy nothing else can bring;  
we'll give to you our offering in celebration praise.

Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing,  
celebrate and sing to the King!  
Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing,  
celebrate and sing to the King!

*(words & music: Patricia Morgan & Dave Bankhead)*

*We remain standing for the* GOSPEL READING John 19:25-27

<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=576731968>

*In church, when it is announced, we say:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.  
**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 Lu Skerratt-Love.*

REFLECTION *for those at home:*

*Think how the three nameless women, mother, sister and princess, saved Moses and made the whole story of faith that led to Jesus possible. In different ways, their knowing, patient, non-violent resistance to the brutality of Pharaoh pushes him comically into the background. Mary, whose name we do know, made Jesus possible in her unique way with physical gestation and spiritual nurture. She also bore the burden every parent carries: fear of loss. We glimpse how fear became a terrible reality for her as she witnesses her son's execution. We are moved by the re-forming of family around her, John adopting her as mother. We may wonder who else surrounded Moses' courageous protectors and supported them in their worry, grief, responsibility and letting go.*

*Think about those whose protection, nurture and maybe courage have made you possible.*

# We affirm our faith

AFFIRMATION of FAITH *At home, if you are able, you might stand and turn in the direction of Church.*

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith in the motherhood of God as portrayed by St Anselm:

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;  
**you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.**

Often you weep over our sins and our pride,  
**Tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.**

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds;  
**in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.**

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;  
**By your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.**

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;  
**through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.**

Your warmth gives life to the dead,  
**Your touch makes sinners righteous.**

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
**in your love and tenderness remake us.**

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness;  
**for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.**

Written by the Revd Michael Vasey from the Prayers and meditations of St Anselm

## INTERCESSIONS

*ending with*

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*For those at home: Pray for the places where, like Pharaoh's Egypt, violence (largely male) seems to dominate the foreground and control the narrative.*

*Pray for figures such as those who protected Moses to come to the fore, showing up and calling out the foolishness of evil today.*

*Pray for any children needing protection today. Pray for Birmingham Children's Services as the Council is under such financial strain.*

*Among those who are unwell we pray for Wendy Turner, Richard Sharif, Roger Tyrrell and Helen Fenton.*

*We stand for THE PEACE*

Deacon: As a mother hen shelters her chicks under her wing, so Christ said he feels protective of us. The peace of the Christ be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN *during which the Table is prepared*

1. God forgave my sin in Jesus' name.  
I've been born again in Jesus' name.  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
to share his love as he told me to.

*He said: "Freely, freely you have received;  
freely, freely give.*

*Go in my name, and because you believe,  
others will know that I live."*

2. All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name,  
in earth and heav'n in Jesus' name.  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
to share his pow'r as he told me to.

3. God gives us life in Jesus' name,  
he lives in us in Jesus' name.  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
to share his peace as he told me to.

*(words & music: Carol Owens, arr Andrew Moore)*

# We celebrate God's faithfulness

*We stand, if able, for the Eucharistic Prayer*

Priest: The Lord is here.

**All: God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our Mothering God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the works of your hands, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus, our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,

in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,

and with a love stronger than death

he opened wide his arms on the cross.



On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks 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.

Great the mystery of faith:  
**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.  
Pour out your Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.  
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.  
Remember, Lord, your church in every land.  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith and preserve her in peace.  
Bring us at last with Mary and all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom and with whom and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.  
**All: Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: As our Saviour taught us, each in our mother tongue, we pray:  
**Our Mother 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 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 pause to remember all who pray at home, then 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.*

*Today, all are invited to receive flowers from the servers after you have received communion or a blessing.*



## ANTHEM *during Communion*

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.  
Not as the world giveth give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled.

*(words: John 14:27; music: Amy Beach)*

## We are sent out

Priest: Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**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 *In Church the priest declares God's blessing. At home we pray:*

*May 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.*

## HYMN [Now thank we all our God](#)

1. Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.



3. All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

*(words: 'Nun danket alle Gott' by Martin Rinkart, trans Catherine Winkworth;  
music: Melody by Johann Crüger, harm William Henry Monk; descant: Benjamin Noakes)*

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

### ***Service this evening, Evening Prayer at 6.30pm***



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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

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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.