

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Wish to see Jesus?

Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday of Lent, 17th 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.

Music as we gather: [Here is love, vast as the ocean](#)

1. Here is love, vast as the ocean,
loving kindness as the flood,
when the Prince of life, our ransom,
shed for us his precious blood.
Who his love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing his praise?
He can never be forgotten
throughout heaven's eternal days.

2. On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and heaven's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.

*(words: 'Dyma gariad fel y moroedd' by William Rees, trans William Edwards;
music: Robert Lowry)*

When the song ends we stand to sing: [Meekness and majesty](#)

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

O what a mystery, meekness and majesty.

Bow down and worship for this is your God, this is your God.

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross.
Suff'ring to give us life, conqu'ring through sacrifice,
and as they crucify prays: "Father forgive."

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

(words & music: Graham Kendrick)

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 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

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from
my sin. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Christ, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit
from me. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

(“Lord, have mercy,” tune from Ukraine)

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

Priest: *[May]* The God of love bring *us* back to himself, forgive *us* our sins, and assure *us* of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We pray COLLECT for The Second Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt-offerings and whole burnt-offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

NEW TESTAMENT READING [Hebrews 5:5-10](#)

HYMN

1. Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its true believeth
light and joy receiveth.

2. When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.

3. When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

4. Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted.

5. Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

6. O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee.

*(words: Henry Williams Baker;
music: Melody from M Weisse's 'Neu Gesangbüchlein [1531], adapt William Henry Monk)*

GOSPEL READING [John 12:20-33](#)

In church we stand and, 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 Margaret Healey-Pollett.*

At home:

Imagine the intensity of the moment for Jesus (John 12). He has just had his feet anointed by Lazarus' sister Mary, and act of sensuous gratitude. He has dealt with Judas' resentment at her worship. He has entered the city, welcomed by crowds as he rode on a donkey, like a subversively peaceable King. The city is crowded and febrile approaching the greatest festival of the year. Some of the religious tourists send a message via Philip (who share their Greek heritage, judging by his name) wanting to see him. What is it like to be the focus of worship, the focus of resentment, the focus of political dreams and the object of religious curiosity? It is hard to fathom what it was like to be all those, and to know you are the Word through whom all things were made and who has come to be with your own, but your own do not recognise you.

This may explain the quite heady, emotional reaction Jesus makes to Philip's enquiry. (Steady on, Jesus. I was only passing on the message, mate.) But it is an intense moment also because, whether a casual or serious enquiry, there is a glimmer of recognition from these foreign Greeks. Jesus is here to begin with his own Jewish people, yet he is here to redeem "the world" as we read last week. This is a beginning. An opening out. A flowering of a wonderful gift for all people in all times and cultures. Yet for Jesus, that gift will only exist if he is lifted up on the cross, becoming hideous, rejected, a distillation of human fear, in order then to become the source of reconciliation and forgiveness and discovery that God is with us.

There is something touching about this brief encounter. We don't even know if Jesus did meet those Greeks. But we do know the New Testament was written in Greek. As the Roman empire gave way, the Greek language would become the vehicle for the Gospels themselves.

I wonder if you have ever asked a modest seeming question and found it triggered an unexpected reaction...

I wonder if someone on the fringes or from outside your community has ever helped you understand yourselves better....

I wonder if you have ever felt that others don't really understand what it is costing you to do what you have to do....

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: 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 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.**

(cf Philippians 2:6-11)

INTERCESSIONS

Pray for the people who came to mind with your wonderings at the end of the Gospel reflection.

Don't be shy of praying for yourself if you feel only God really understands what you are going through.

Among those in our community and networks who are unwell, we remember Charlotte Dunlop, Adrian Koslowski and Richard Sharif. We pray for King Charles.

Among those who have died we remember Philip Arrand.

THE PEACE

Deacon: As we turn towards Jesus' Passion, we remember what he said. When he is lifted up from the earth Jesus will draw all people to himself. The Peace of the Lord be always with you. (John 12:32)

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [Lift high the Cross](#)

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!*

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Saviour trod,
o'er death victorious, Christ the Son of God.
2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful praise combine:
3. For thy blest Cross which doth for all atone,
creation's praises rise before thy throne:
4. So let the world proclaim with one accord
the praises of our ever-living Lord.

(words: George William Kitchin & Michael Robert Newbolt alt; music: Sydney Hugo Nicholson)

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.

Glorious God, you created the heavens as the place for your glory to dwell and the earth as the theatre for your glory to come

among us. You called your people to be a kingdom of priests and your church to be a priestly kingdom. In Melchizedek you show us your people's vocation to be a righteous king, and in Jesus you show us true righteousness and true majesty. You lift up your Son Jesus in cross and resurrection to draw all people to yourself. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending 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.

Righteous God, when the hour came for your Son to be glorified, he sat down with his disciples and re-enacted the story of your liberating purpose for your people. We gather as your disciples to re-enact your liberating purpose in the death and resurrection of your Son. Come among us now, that others may see you in us and we may behold your glory, as these gifts of bread and wine become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus 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.

Heavenly God, you have glorified your name. Glorify it again today, that those who stand before you with prayers and supplications made with loud cries and tears may find in you the reason for their aching, the joy of their desiring and the goal of

their yearning. As you lifted up your Son through suffering to resurrected glory, lift up the wretched of the earth to find peace and rest at your side and in your heart. Bring all who would see you face to face with your Son in the Power of your Holy Spirit, until all injustice is transformed by your mercy, all deceit healed by your truth and all oppression dismantled by your grace, and your kingdom is known on earth, now and 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. 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* [Unless a grain of wheat](#)

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain, a grain with no life.*

1. If we have died with him, then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

2. If anyone serves me then they must follow me;
wherever I am my servants will be.

3. Make your home in me as I make mine in you;
those who remain in me bear much fruit.

4. If you remain in me and word lives in you;
then you will be my disciples.

5. Those who love me are loved by my Father;
we shall be with them and dwell in them.

6. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
peace which the worlds cannot give is my gift.

(words & music: Bernadette Farrell)

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

[May] Christ crucified draw *us* to himself, to find in him a sure
ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of
sins forgiven, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit, be among *us* and remain with *us* always.
Amen.

HYMN [O Jesus, I have promised](#)

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me, my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.
2. O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.
4. O let me see thy foot-marks, and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
and then in heav'n receive me, my Saviour and my friend.

(words: John Ernest Bode; music: James William Elliott)

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

This evening's service is at 6.30pm



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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.