

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

# You are witnesses

## Holy Communion

Easter III, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## We gather

*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: [All I once held dear](#)*

1. All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
all this world reveres, and wars to own,  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss;  
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're the best, you're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love you, Lord.*

2. Now my heart's desire is to know you more,  
to be found in you and known as yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
all-surpassing gift of righteousness.

3. Oh, to know the pow'r of your risen life,  
and to know you in your sufferings.  
To become like you in your death, my Lord,  
so with you to live and never die.

*(words: Graham Kendrick, based on Philippians 3:8-12; music: Graham Kendrick, arr Keith Stent)*

*When the song finishes we stand in silence. We sing:*

HYMN 1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing.  
Now is the triumph of our King.  
To all the world glad news we bring:

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

2. The Lord of Life is ris'n for ay:  
bring flow'rs of song to strew his way;  
let all mankind rejoice and say:

3. Praise we in songs of victory  
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:

4. Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord  
the life laid down, the life restored:

*(words: Cyril Argentine Alington alt; music: Melody from Melchior Vulpius' 'Gesangbuch' [1609])*

*We acclaim:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ be with us all. **Amen.**

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: For all our faltering, flickering faith still God stands among us  
offering peace in forgiveness. Let us then confess our sins in  
penitence and faith:

**All: Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like the morning mist,  
disappearing in the heat of the sun.  
Have mercy on us.  
Bind up our wounds  
and bring us back to the foot of the cross,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*FORGIVENESS is declared:*

*May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, time for amendment of life and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Amen.*

*We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA*

1. Glory be to God in heaven,  
songs of praise and joy we bring;  
thankful hearts and voices raising,  
to creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you:  
Lord we bless you:  
glory be to God our King;  
glory be to God our King.

2. Lamb of God who on your  
shoulders  
bore the load of this world's sin:  
only Son of God the Father  
you have brought us peace within.  
Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
now your glorious reign begin;  
now your glorious reign begin.

3. You O Son of God are holy,  
you we praise with one accord:  
none in heaven or earth is like you,  
only you are Christ the Lord:  
with the Father  
and the Spirit  
ever worshipped and adored;  
ever worshipped and adored.

THE COLLECT for the Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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.**

READINGS [Acts 3:12-19](#) and [1 John 3:1-7](#)

HYMN [Love's redeeming work is done](#)

1. Love's redeeming work is done;  
fought the fight, the battle won:  
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,  
lo, he sets in blood no more.

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the  
seal;  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

3. Lives again our glorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,  
foll'wing our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise;  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!  
praise to thee by both be giv'n;  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection thou!

*(words: Charles Wesley; music: John Wesley's 'Foundery Collection' [1742])*

*We remain standing for the* GOSPEL READING [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

**All:** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end* This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

SERMON in Church is from David

*For those at home:*

*Do you like grilled fish? One wonders what the room smelled like when Jesus appeared to the disciples. If they have been locked away for a few days and cooking fish it might have been a bit whiffy. There is something almost comical about the detail Luke shares. The disciples must have told him when he became a follower of the way and began his research for the Gospel. Fish, though, was a staple food in the region of Lake Galilee and source of income for Peter and others. Early in the Gospel, Jesus had said to Peter, "from now on you will be catching people" (5:10). Sure enough, in Acts we see exactly that happening. Peter's vocation has transformed, his horizons have grown, expanded along with his*

*confidence. His generous, self-effacing speech in Acts rings with trust in the risen Jesus. He helps us recognise the gravity of Jesus' words "you are witnesses of these things." The Greek word witnesses is Martures, giving us the word Martyr. He has proved himself to be the crucified, risen Jesus of Nazareth, showing them his hands and his sides, eating (as ghosts can't do) and describing the long story of his Hebrew people, making absolute sense of who he is and what he points forward to. He has "opened their minds to understand the scriptures" in Luke's account, which is another angle on John's description of Jesus breathing on them so they would receive the Holy Spirit. All this makes them "witnesses". This word points in two directions: back to past events. They have seen and can confirm the truth of what they have seen. This is what "witness" tends to evoke in English. But it also points forwards to what the disciples will be and say. They will live lives that show all this to be true. They will be people whose lives make sense only because Jesus was who he was, died as he did, rose as he did, and now is who he is for ever. Witness is not only a word about confirmation of evidence. It is also "Martyrdom," that is, living in such a way that shows your beliefs to have integrity, even to the point of being willing to die rather than abandon those beliefs. Indeed that turned out to be the result for most of the group Jesus ate fish with that day, but enough survived for the church to grow exponentially and for the truths of his life, death and resurrection to be transmitted boldly around the world and down the centuries.*

*Being martures today may rarely involve such extreme sacrifice in our culture, but we are still called to witness in both directions, just as they were: telling the story and living lives whose integrity is anchored in Jesus. The comical detail of the fish brings this sense of witness right into the mundane detail of our ordinary hidden life, not just the big moments like Peter's speech in the public square. The fact that witness has for too many people meant suffering and death should heighten, not hinder our sense that it is a powerful word for us in peace time. What does it mean where I am to live as one who trusts in the risen Christ?*

## We affirm our faith

*We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:*

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith.

**All: We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his  
love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## INTERCESSIONS

*At home: following your reflections on witness, pray for those whose witness to some aspect of truth does indeed put their life in danger:*

*An atheist writer in India,  
A Rohingya Muslim in Myanmar,  
A Christian in Iran,  
An MP worrying about security at their surgery in Britain,  
A woman desiring education in Afghanistan or choosing her own clothes in Iran.*

*Pray not only for their safety, but also for the society around them to learn from their witness.*

*Pray for the church's witness in Kings Heath, Birmingham and beyond. This week we pray for Bishop Anne as she prepares to leave her role as Bishop of Aston to become principal of The Queen's Foundation.*

*Among those who are unwell we pray for John Bowdler, Diane Hirst and all resettling or considering a change of living or care arrangements.*

## THE PEACE

Deacon: The risen lord came and stood among his disciples and said "peace be with you," and they were glad when they saw the Lord. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## HYMN [I danced in the morning](#)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John –  
they came with me and the dance went on.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
the holy people, they said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black –  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body, and they thought I'd gone,  
but I am the dance, and I still go on.

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me –  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*(words: Sydney Carter; music: Traditional American melody, adapt Sydney Carter)*

*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, feeling yourself to be part of the wider church family.*

## We tell the story of salvation

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 the Lord our God.

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

Creator God, you made the wonder that is earth, inscribing soil, sky and sea with life, energy and glory. Though we look upon you with eyes dimmed by the Fall, you gaze upon us with eyes filled with grace. You breathe new air into our choking lungs, you bring life out of toxic soil, you turn polluted seas into the waters of baptism. You parted the ocean to liberate your captive people, and you rolled away the stone to bring us face to face with your resurrected Son. You make us your Son's body, taken, blessed and broken on the cross to be shared for the life of your world. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

*We repeat after the cantor:*

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord!  
God of power and God of might.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord most high.  
Hosanna.  
Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Re-creating God, when your Son came to restore your purpose for the earth, he took the fruit of your abundance and the food of human labour. Come among us now, and make us holy in the sharing of your gracious abundance and our faltering endeavour. Take these gifts of bread and wine and make them 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.**

Ever-creating God, your Son Jesus invited his disciples to touch his risen body. Come now in the power of your Holy Spirit and touch all that is still to be resurrected. Touch all who live in fear; touch any who know daily hunger; touch those who carry wounds and scars. Touch all who are yet to see the salvation you bring through your Son; touch any who are stumbling and tentative in their faith; touch those who are disbelieving and still wondering. Touch your whole church and make us one in you, that your scars may again proclaim your glory and we may be united with your saints in the coming of your kingdom, ever one God, on earth as in heaven, 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 and now lives for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*We sing:* **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us your peace. (x2)**

*We pause to remember all who pray at home, then share the bread, now for us the body of Christ.*

*SONGS during Communion* [Broken for me](#)

*Broken for me, broken for you,  
the body of Jesus, broken for you.*

1. He offered his body, he poured out his soul;  
Jesus was broken, that we might be whole.

2. Come to my table and with me dine;  
eat of my bread and drink of my wine.

3. This is my body given for you;  
eat it remembering I died for you.

4. This is my blood I shed for you,  
for your forgiveness, making you new.

*(words & music: Janet Lunt)*

*And*

1. Walking in a garden at the close of day,  
Adam tried to hide him when heard God say:  
"Why are you so frightened, why are you afraid?  
You have brought the winter in, made the flowers fade."

2. Walking in a garden where the Lord had gone,  
three of the disciples, Peter, James and John;  
they were very weary, could not keep awake,  
while the Lord was kneeling there, praying for their sake.

3. Walking in a garden at the break of day,  
Mary asked the gard'ner where the body lay;  
but he turned towards her, smiled at her and said:  
"Mary, spring is here to stay, only death is dead."

*(words: Hilary Greenwood; music: Traditional Irish melody, arr Andrew Moore)*

## We are sent out

**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 who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill *us* with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

### HYMN [Ye choirs of new Jerusalem](#)

1. Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the Paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

2. For Judah's Lion burst his chains,

and crushed the serpent's head;  
and brought with him, from death's domains,  
the long-imprisoned dead.

3. From hell's devouring jaws the prey  
alone our leader bore;  
his ransomed hosts pursue their way  
where he hath gone before.

4. Triumphant in his glory now  
his sceptre ruleth all:  
earth, heav'n and hell before him bow  
and at his footstool fall.

5. While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
his mercy we implore,  
into his palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.

6. All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
while endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.

*(words: St Fulbert of Chartres [c1000], trans R Campbell; music: H J Gauntlett)*

*We acclaim:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**



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Eucharistic Prayer from *Joining the Angels' Song*, Samuel Wells and Abigail  
 Kocher, Canterbury Press 2016

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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.

### **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.