

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Good Shepherd

Holy Communion

Easter IV, Sunday 21st 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:

1. Jesus is risen, alleluia!
Worship and praise him, alleluia!
Now our redeemer bursts from the grave;
lost to the tomb, Christ rises to save.

*Come, let us worship him, endlessly sing;
Christ is alive and death loses its sting.
Sins are forgiven, alleluia!
Jesus is risen, alleluia!*

2. Buried for three days, destined for death,
now he returns to breathe with our breath.
Blest are the ears alert to his voice,
blest are the hearts which for him rejoice.

3. "Don't be afraid!" the angel had said.
"Why seek the living here with the dead?
Look, where he lay, his body is gone,
risen and vibrant, warm with the sun."

4. "Go and tell others, Christ is alive."
Love is eternal, faith and hope thrive.

What God intended, Jesus fulfilled;
what God conceives can never be killed.

5. Let heaven echo, let the earth sing:
Jesus is saviour of everything,
all those who trust him, Christ will receive;
therefore rejoice, obey and believe!

*(words: Bernard Kyamanywa, English version by John L Bell;
music: Haya [Tanzanian] melody, arr John L Bell)*

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

HYMN [This is the day](#)

1. This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.

2. This is the day, this is the day
when he rose again, when he rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when he rose again.

3. This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came.

(words & music: Les Garrett)

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: Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to live in love and peace with all.

Silence

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.**

We are sorry and repent.

Have mercy on us according to your love.

Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.

Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In church FORGIVENESS *is declared for all while at home we pray:*

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 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where
he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for
ever. **Amen.**

READINGS [Acts 4:5-12](#) and [1 John 3:16-end](#)

HYMN [The Lord's my shepherd](#)

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green. He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill.
For thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou has furnishèd
in presence of my foes,
my head thou dost with oil anoint,

and my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

(words: Psalm 23 from 'The Scottish Psalter' [1650]; music: Melody by Jessie Seymour Irvine)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [John 10:11-18](#)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: 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 Tariro

For those at home:

The first thing anyone said publicly to identify Jesus in John's Gospel was "Behold the lamb of God" – words uttered by John the Baptist as Jesus approached. In Chapter 10 we hear Jesus speaking of himself as a good shepherd. We hear this reading in the weeks of Easter as, with the help of Acts, we imagine the early church assimilating the staggering news and discovering layer upon layer of meaning in Jesus' character, his words, his deeds and his being. His disciples surely talked and talked, remembering things he had said and done, turning them over, re-interpreting them through the clarifying lens of the resurrection. That he be both the sacrificial lamb (Good Friday's victim) and the Good Shepherd, whom they now realise can protect them even from death's finality (the risen one) is dizzying, wonderful, playful poetry. Such Shepherd-Sheep reversal holds the paradox that he is both human and divine, both victim and victor, with us in both suffering and glory.

They also remembered how he had said there were others he must gather to the flock. The early church indeed sets about drawing others from far and wide – anyone who will listen - into the joy of his protection. His protection, though, will not be like the military protection Rome offers to whom it likes.

God came to reveal God's character among us in Jesus of Nazareth, the Word made flesh. He reveals his vulnerability, his willingness to experience pain in order to be with us. This shepherd is non-violent.

Having seen the gruelling helplessness of Jesus' execution, when he didn't seem protective at all, but looked like an abject failure, taken advantage of, victimised, now they have met him risen from the dead, another thing they remembered him saying, as recorded by John, was that no one took his life from him. Rather, he gave it willingly. The dignity and initiative, the integrity of his goodness is restored to him. This gives us pause for thought whenever we feel taken advantage of.

If someone is generous, and someone else takes greedy advantage, we perhaps see the generous person as naïve or diminished in some way. In fact their choice to be generous is not in any way debased. For it was not dependent on any reward. Being generous is who they want to be. That someone respond greedily and ungratefully may be hurtful, but it does nothing to diminish the dignity and integrity of the generous one.

Who has come to mind as you think this over? Today we might pray for them.

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 in Christ the Word made flesh:

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith.

**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 other 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.**

(From Philippians chapter 2)

INTERCESSIONS

At home: Pray for any whom you have seen taken advantage of and give thanks for their generosity. Pray for a healing of any hard heartedness in those who sought to take advantage.

If you have felt hurt by someone abusing your generosity, feel the affirmation of Christ, the blessing of your impulse to generosity. If you can, pray for the person who hurt you in this way, and for all those who may miss Jesus' affirmation because they daren't risk the vulnerability of generosity.

Please remember those who are unwell including:

Jean Caswell, Kathy Farbrother, Richard Sharif, Wendy Turner, Howard Drury, Roger Tyrrell and Helen Fenton.

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 [A new commandment](#)

*A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

1. By this shall all know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another. (x2)
2. You are my friends if you do what I command you. Without my help you can do nothing. (x2)
3. I am the true vine, my Father is the gard'ner. Abide in me: I will be with you. (x2)
4. True love is patient, not arrogant nor boastful; love bears all things, love is eternal. (x2)

(words: v1 unknown, from John 13; vv2-4 Aniceto Nazareth, from John 15 and 1 Corinthians 13; music: Anon, arr Andrew Moore)

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.

Shepherding God, we praise and thank you because you gathered your flock around Abraham and through Moses and Joshua you brought your sheep to a place of safety. In Jesus you came to us as a Passover Lamb to take away the sins of the world. As our everlasting good shepherd you promise that those who hear your voice shall never be in want, for you know your sheep by name and you call us your own and give to each of us a place in the sheepfold of your kingdom, where angels and archangels and all the company of heaven sing 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.

Sustaining God, as you lead your sheep to green pastures and guide them beside still waters, so you have led us to this table where in bread and wine you restore our soul. Send down your Holy Spirit and restore your church through the abundance of this sacred meal. As we remember the story of your Son's life laid down for us, sanctify this bread and cup and make them be 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.

Saving God, your rod and staff comfort all who look to you in faith. Search out your sheep that are lost and bring them home. When you find them in the valley of fear, gather them in your arms. When they face evil in the presence of enemies, follow with your goodness and mercy all the days of their lives. On that day when the shadow of death covers them, bring them to dwell in your house for ever. Shepherd us with all your saints of every age into your glorious presence, where we shall behold your Lamb seated in glory, most Holy trinity now and always. **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 [Because the Lord is my shepherd](#)

1. Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in the meadow and leads me to the quiet streams.
He restores my soul and he leads me in the paths that are right:

*Lord, you are my shepherd, you are my friend.
I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend.*

2. And when the road leads to darkness, I shall walk there
unafraid.
Even when death is close I have courage, for your help is there.
You are close beside me with comfort, you are guiding my way:

3. In love you make me a banquet for my enemies to see.
You make me welcome, pouring down honour from your mighty
hand;
and this joy fills me with gladness, it is too much to bear:

4. Your goodness always is with me and your mercy I know.
Your loving kindness strengthens me always as I go through life.
I shall dwell in your presence for ever, giving praise to your name:

(words & music: Christopher Walker, based on Psalm 23)

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 [Great is thy faithfulness](#)

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(words: Thomas Obadiah Chisholm; music: William Marion Runyan)

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.

*This evening, 6.30: Service in the Iona Tradition
on the theme 'Resurrection - Behold I make all things new'.
gathering will include creative activity and music.
This Sunday's service, falling in the Easter season, will be an
opportunity to open our hearts to the possibilities of new life.*



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

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PHOTOGRAPHY

We respectfully ask that others do not take photographs at Church without permission.

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.