

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

# Who'd be a teacher?

Holy Communion Trinity 16, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## We gather

*For those 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, in this third week of **Creationtide**:*

*Through the wind and waves and the rising tides, Jesus is Lord of all.  
Through the raging fires and the storms that come, Jesus still is Lord of all.*

1. Look around Lord! Look our way. Be the thunder in our day.  
Echo loud, echo silent, through the storms and our dismay.  
Change is coming, earth is warming, our common home in disarray.
2. Wake up people! Look around! Change is coming on the ground.  
Fires are raging, floods are surging, waters rising, creatures drowned.  
Change is coming, earth is warming, our common home where fear abounds.
3. Holy Spirit wake us up! Rouse your people, build us up.  
He says be still! and winds obey. He says Shalom! our fears allay.  
Faith is growing, courage standing, Holy Spirit stay! we pray.

*(words: Silvia Purdie; music: Cyril Murphy)*

*When the song finishes we stand in silence.*

*We sing: [Take up thy cross, the Saviour said](#)*

1. Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up thy cross – let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm:  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:  
thy Lord for thee the Cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.

4. Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
and calmly ev'ry danger brave;  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
and lead to vict'ry o'er the grave.

5. Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

6. To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise for evermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heav'nly life that knows no end.

*(words: Charles William Everest, based on Mark 8 alt;  
music: 'As Hymnodus Sacer' [1625], arr Felix Mendelssohn)*

Priest        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        Confessing our sins, we clear the air, preparing to listen to the wisdom  
of Isaiah, James and Jesus.

## *Silence*

When our politics is mocking, cruel, victimising,  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When our speech is unkind, untrue, unworthy,  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

When our teaching is self-serving, self-preserving, self-proclaiming,  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

FORGIVENESS *is declared:*

*[May]* God enrich *us* with his grace, and nourish *us* with his blessing;  
God defend *us* in trouble and keep *us* from all evil; God accept *our*  
prayers, and absolve *us* from *our* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ  
our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Glory! Glory! Glory to God!*

*Glory! Glory! Glory to God!*

1. Glory to God in the heights of the heavens.  
Peace to God's people, all people on earth.

2. Son of the Father, all glory and worship;  
praise and thanksgiving to you, Lamb of God.

3. You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.

4. Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,  
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.

5. And with the Spirit of love everlasting,  
reigning in glory for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT for the sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of all your people  
who call upon you; and grant the they may both perciev'd and know  
what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power

faithfully to fulfil them; 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 [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#) and [James 3:1-12](#)

HYMN [From heaven you came](#)

1. From heav'n you came, helpless  
babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

2. There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn.  
"Yet not my will but yours," he said.

3. Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space,  
to cruel nails surrendered.

4. So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

*(words & music: Graham Kendrick)*

*We remain standing for the* GOSPEL READING [Mark 8:27-end](#)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end* This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *in Church is offered by David*

*At home:*

*What's the harshest thing anyone has ever said to you?*

*Did it feel harsh because it was unfair or cruel, or because it contained truth you didn't want to hear? Or was it a bit of both?*

*Last week we heard Jesus's harsh rebuff to the Syrian mother asking for his help. This week, if that wasn't enough, we hear him call Peter "Satan" – the deceiver who had tempted him with publicity stunts that looked appealing at first glance, but he knew would corrupt his compassionate vocation. It is hard to imagine how hurt Peter must have felt, and may wonder how long it took him to accept the truth in the sharp rebuke, such a mirror image of the acclamation he had made calling Jesus the "Christ," the anointed one of God.*

*What's the harshest thing you have ever said to anyone? Was your tone and the strength of what you said warranted by the seriousness of the issue you felt they needed to face? How far was your harshness the result of your own need or fear about the issue you raised? It is striking to think of Jesus, who goes on to talk openly about his journey to the cross, feeling sorely tempted to agree with Peter, and Satan who tempted him (chapter 4) with self-serving populism. That temptation described in chapter 4 didn't only happen once. It would surely accompany him throughout his ministry. He asked his Father to take the cup of suffering from him, but then accepted his calling. Perhaps it was his anxiety about the rejection he was to experience that raised the heat in this exchange with his friend. It may be that, like Jesus, your harshness was born of love for the person you spoke to, or they to you.*

*Some people speak critically of a political regime and are accused of treason, and yet they bravely cry out precisely out of loyalty and love for their homeland. Conversely, it is terrible when we see brutal behaviour justified on the grounds of some loyalty when it is in reality a betrayal. Hamas' actions on October 7<sup>th</sup> betrayed their own people catastrophically. Israel's brutality in response betrays her own integrity and puts her own people in ever greater danger.*

*Isaiah and Jesus encourage fortitude and patience when we suffer for speaking truth while James warns of the power of speech to cause a fire, to mislead, to hurt. With such daunting readings we well might be struck dumb and rooted to the spot, too afraid to say or do a thing. But we can be encouraged that, while Peter said something Jesus needed harshly to challenge, he did speak out of love for his teacher. When Jesus spoke harshly, he spoke out of his human vulnerability. Peter did press on and became one of the greatest teachers of the faith (see his oratory in Acts). He might have been silenced at first, but he was able over time to turn his hurt into wisdom. Jesus did press on, literally taking up his cross, letting go of his life, to be raised to glory for all our sakes.*

*Emboldened by the hope his resurrection inspires, we take courage to raise our voices in prayer.*

## We affirm our faith

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

*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:*

**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.**

### INTERCESSIONS

*Having heard in James the impossibly heavy responsibility of teaching, and the power for good or ill of speech, we pray for all whose vocation is to teach, and for young people to be equipped with speech to express themselves well; equipped with emotional and ethical intelligence to match the knowledge they learn.*

*Having heard from Isaiah of a teacher persecuted and mocked for speaking truth, we pray for all political prisoners, especially for opposition spokespeople arrested and imprisoned in Venezuela and Russia.*

*Having heard from Jesus the call to deny self and take up the cross, we pray for any who have had to give up something precious in order for something even more precious to become possible. We pray for any who, by clutching to tightly onto someone or something risk losing them.*

*Among those who are unwell we pray for Rob Morris, Wendy Turner, Dharshi, Syed and Thandi.*

*Among those celebrating new beginnings, we pray for all young people leaving home for University, or beginning a new course at college. We pray for Kurt and Kerriann married here yesterday.*

*Among those who have died we remember Elaine Apps.*

*We stand for THE PEACE*

Deacon: Let your good works be done with gentleness born of wisdom.

(cf James 3:13)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: The peace of the Lord be always with you**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [Sing of the Lord's goodness](#)

1. Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.  
Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,  
faithful to the end of days.

*Come then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness,  
melodies of praise and thanks to God.  
Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music,  
worship him and bless his name.*

2. Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,  
risen from the snares of death.  
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,  
new life he now gives to all.

3. Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,  
Spirit of our God most high;  
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,  
splendour of the living God.

4. Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,  
praise God with the lute and harp;  
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,  
praise God till the end of days.

*(words: Ernest Sands;  
music: Ernest Sands & Christopher Walker, arr Paul Inwood)*

*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.*

## We tell the story of salvation

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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.**

God of wisdom and truth, we give you heartfelt thanks for the joy of your creation and abundant praise for the grace of your liberating love. You gathered the twelve tribes of Israel and spoke your Word to Elijah and your prophets. In the fullness of time your Son gathered twelve disciples and walked the way of the cross that John the Baptist prepared for him. After his great passion and suffering, he rose to glory on the third day. And so with the host of heaven we gather around your throne, singing your eternal hymn of glory.

**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.**

Suffering God, your Son knew betrayal and denial and pain and death. In his broken body we see the extent of your love for us and the depths of our rejection of you. Send your Spirit upon those gathered here that this meal may be an outpouring of your love and a healing of our rejection. Send that same Spirit upon this bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord 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.**

Expectant God, in your Son you were denied, and you call us to deny ourselves: be close to all who have been denied by those they had come to trust. In Christ you took up a cross: give strength to all who carry his cross today. You call us to follow in the way of life and truth and peace: draw near to any who dwell amid hostility and discord. As your Son lost his life in order to save us, show your church where it should cease to save and be free to lose, and where it should gladly lose, in order the more wondrously to save and be saved. Put a song in every weary throat that celebrates the day of your coming, and open



our eyes to see that great day, when with the holy angels the Son of Man comes in the power of the Spirit and the glory of the Father.

**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 and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died and now lives for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*We sing:* [Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,](#)  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins 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.*

#### SONGS *during Communion*

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.

2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my  
Strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;  
such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes his guest.

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
such a joy as none can move;

such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

*(words: George Herbert; music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, adapt E H Green)*

1. Think of a world without any flowers,  
think of a world without any trees,  
think of a sky without any sunshine,  
think of the air without any breeze.  
We thank you, Lord, for flow'rs and trees and sunshine,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

2. Think of a world without any animals,  
think of a field without any herd,  
think of a stream without any fishes,  
think of a dawn without any bird.  
We thank you, Lord, for all your living creatures,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

3. Think of a world without any people,  
think of a street with no one living there,  
think of a town without any houses,  
no one to love and nobody to care.  
We thank you, Lord, for families and friendships,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

*(words: Doreen Newport; music: Graham Westcott, arr Donald Thomson)*

## We are sent out

*We pray* **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]* God 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 [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, 6.30pm **service in the Iona tradition***



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

## 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;
- speak to Steve Brittle about the Parish Giving Scheme.
- make a transfer to:

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