

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Authority and Power

Holy Communion for Christ the King, Sunday 24th November 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: [King of the ages, almighty God](#)

*King of the ages, almighty God, perfect love, ever just and true.
Who will not fear you and bring you praise? All the nations will come to you.*

1. Your ways of love have won my heart, and brought me joy unending.
Your saving power at work in me, bringing peace and the hope of glory.
2. Your arms of love are reaching out to every soul that seeks you;
your light will shine in all the earth, bringing grace and a great salvation.
3. The day will come when you appear, and every eye shall see you.
Then we shall rise with hearts ablaze, with a song we will sing for ever.

(words & music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty, arr Andrew Wilson)

When the song finishes we stand in silence.

HYMN [Christ is the King! O friends rejoice](#)

1. Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
make the world know he is your choice.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. O magnify the Lord, and raise

anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.

3. O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the Way disciples followed then.

4. Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great name,
with the same faith his Word proclaim.

5. Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.

6. So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole Church at last be one.

(words: George Kennedy Allen Bell alt; music: Melody from Melchior Vulpius's 'Gesangbuch' [1609])

Priest: 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: Acknowledging Christ as King, all human power and authority is
brought into his revealing light. We prepare to confess our individual
part in the world's dysfunction: the abuse of power, the blaming of
others, the obscuring of truth.

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.**

FORGIVENESS is prayed for at home and in church is declared by the priest:

[May] the almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: To him who loves us and freed us from our sins be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

(Revelation 1:6)

We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA (Salazaar)

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 Christ the King

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen.**

READINGS [Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14](#) and [Revelation 1:4b-8](#)

HYMN [When God Almighty came to earth](#)

1. When God Almighty came to earth,
he took the pain of Jesus' birth,
he took the flight of refugee,
and whispered: "Humbly follow me."

2. When God Almighty went to work,
carpenter's sweat he didn't shirk,
profit and loss he didn't flee,
and whispered: "Humbly follow me."

3. When God Almighty walked the
street,
the critic's curse he had to meet,
the cynic's smile he had to see,
and whispered: "Humbly follow me."

4. When God Almighty met his folk,
of peace and truth he boldly spoke
to set the slave and tyrant free,
and whispered: "Humbly follow me."

5. When God Almighty took his place
to save the sometimes human race,
he took it boldly on a tree,
and whispered: "Humbly follow me."

6. When God Almighty comes again,
he'll meet us incognito as then:
and though no words may voice his
plea,
he'll whisper: "Are you following me?"

(words: John L Bell & Graham Maule: music: Somerset folk song, coll Cecil Sharp, arr Richard Lloyd)

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING [John 18:33-37](#)

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.

SERMON *in Church is offered by David*

For those at home:

While we're quick to criticise those in charge, at work, in politics, in Church, there are a bundle of motives at work. Of course, we may often be right. Leaders can do terrible wrong, be negligent, self serving, cruel. Also, we may sometimes be pointing away from ourselves. Asking others to fix things can conceal our not taking responsibility ourselves. "They haven't done enough" we cry when the rivers burst their banks. What have we done ourselves in recent years in response to the climate crisis that leads to such extremities as we are now experiencing? "Fix the NHS" we demand, having consistently voted against progressive taxation rises in successive elections. Thirdly, knowing there is someone in charge gives us a sense of security, which includes the psychological release of anxiety by blaming someone for anything, letting off steam. I wonder if we can go even deeper and find a more primeval, soulful reason why we need people to blame. What if the blame reflex is an inverted expression of our desire to be judged kindly ourselves?

The book of Daniel, with comedic timing and cartoonish extravagance, portrayed the people in charge in the world as various exotic animal like beasts, still with recognisable human characteristics. Often in Hebrew scripture, nature is seen as praising God, judging our apathy in worship. Daniel reverses this, holding up a mirror to leadership showing our bestial behaviour towards one another. All the way through the book, however, Daniel himself is shown not to be aloof from the world's affairs, but to be involved, acting with integrity as a civil servant trying to help even the worst leaders be their best. Now we reach a climactic moment where he is given a vision of a "human one" taking charge, radiant, as unquestionable authority, magnificent, yet definitely human.

The elaborate description of attendants and fiery throne overwhelms the most lavish adornment of any earthly king. The despots who have strutted through the story look shabby by comparison.

This vision could be seen as a deep human longing for good authority, for wise and knowing authority, for the relief of good judgement of us all. It turns from the frightening bestial images of leadership to a beautiful human leadership that expresses our deep knowledge that human beings are fundamentally beautiful. Leadership and power too often twist us out of shape, making us ugly. But what if we could be...?

Another longing in the vision is for humanity to find unity. All languages, all peoples, all nations should serve this beatific leader, his kingship, unlike the unholy struggles across the region round Babylon, is one. Saying it "shall never be destroyed" is to affirm "this is how things should really be."

Centuries later, in Jesus of Nazareth, people began to experience the benevolent judgement of his gaze. Crucified by a Nebuchadnezzar-like capricious regime, he seemed to have been judged and defeated. His resurrection, however, became a lens through which his whole story read differently. Here was one who was not in thrall to earthly hierarchies. Looking back, the scene of Pilate and Jesus was reversed. Jesus was not standing before Pilate. Pilate was judged by Jesus' authoritative presence. Pilate's rule looked cruel and ridiculous. Jesus' authority looks benevolent, everlasting and glorious. Looking through the lens of resurrection, Jesus blood stained tunic and Pilate's shiny armour and insignia reverse. Pilate looks shabby and Jesus looks radiant. Gradually he was recognised as the fulfilment of Daniel's dream. This Human One meets our deepest longings, judges our human clumsiness, reflects our human beauty. Here at last is one worthy of obedience and worship.

Remembering that Jesus was not detached, but immersed himself in the gritty reality of our political interaction; remembering that Daniel before him had rolled up his sleeves and tried to help the flawed regime find its best version of itself, allow leaders, authority figures, regimes of any kind come to mind as the will and try to look at them through the lens of Jesus' resurrection. See how they look. Who has power and who glows with authority? Is there any good to be affirmed amidst the complexity? Does any cruelty need calling out? Is there anyone presenting as

glamorous who is really shabby and anyone looking beleaguered who actually ought to be ascribed authority?

Now we have some people to pray for.

We affirm our faith

Deacon: We affirm our faith in God singing words based on Philippians Chapter 2.

**Though one with God, yet not by might
did Christ his equal status claim;
instead he gave up all he had
and as a humble servant came,
in worldly form, of woman born,
he lived at one with human kind,
and strode and stumbled to the cross,
that we the path to life might find.**

**Therefore God raised him after death,
raised him to reign in earth and heaven:
The one who we considered least,
the greatest name by God was given.
And so, to honour Jesus' name,
all who have life or are to be
shall kneel proclaiming 'Christ is Lord!'
and worship God eternally.**

Philippians 2:6-1, versified by John Bell and Graham Maule
© Iona Community. Tune: Jerusalem

INTERCESSIONS in Church are led by Nicola Slee.

At home:

*Pray for those leaders and regimes you have been reflecting on.
We pray for any in particular for whom power is unhealthy and pushes
them out of shape, threatening their humanity and distorting their
beauty.*

*We pray for all seeking human flourishing and unity, and for the safe
and fruitful conclusion of Margaret Healey Pollett's journey with Sabeel
in Israel Palestine and for Archbishop Justin's ministry of reconciliation
there this week. We pray too for his meetings with survivors of abuse, to
which he has committed himself whatever the date of his leaving office.*

Among those who are unwell, we pray for John Parkin.

We stand for THE PEACE

Deacon: Jesus said "If my kingdom was of this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN 1. [For all the saints](#) who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest:
Alleluia, alleluia.

2. Thou wast their rock, their refuge and their might,
thou, Lord, the vision ever in their sight,
thou in the darkness drear their one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia.

3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:
Alleluia, alleluia.

4. The golden evening brightens in the west,
soon, soon to faithful pilgrims cometh rest:
sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.
Alleluia, alleluia.

5. But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, alleluia.

6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, alleluia.

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 God's faithfulness

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.

Glory and dominion be to you, Lord God, for your Word was alive in creation, is present in the power of the Spirit and will come in glory on the Last Day. You made with the house of David an everlasting covenant and your goodness is like the sun on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on a grassy land. You sent Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. He freed us from our sins by his blood and made us to be a kingdom of priests serving you for ever. And so with all the company of heaven, we rejoice to sing your praise:

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.

Murray)

(music: Dom Gregory

God of truth, your Son came to testify to you and lead us into all righteousness. You have prepared for us such things as pass our understanding. Send your Holy Spirit upon your people, that your Word may be on their tongue. Sanctify this bread and this cup that they may 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

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did. In him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

God of all beginnings and endings, your Son declared his kingdom was not of this world. Bless the governance of every earthly kingdom, that it may be ruled justly, in spirit and in truth. Visit your children who live in fear, dwell under oppression, experience cruelty or suffer discrimination. Turn struggle into hope, hope into freedom, freedom into justice and justice into love. Bring to those who have never known you, or have forgotten or rejected you, the light of your grace and the thirst for your mercy; until your Son comes with the clouds and all eyes will see him and every tribe and tongue will lift your name on high, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: All nations and languages shall serve God, said Daniel in his vision. Each in our mother tongue, we pray as our Saviour taught us:

(Daniel 7:14)

[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.

HYMN during Communion

1. Sing to the world of Christ our sovereign Lord,
tell of his birth which brought new life to all.
Speak of his life, his love, his holy word;
let every nation hear and know his call.
Sing to the world of Christ our sovereign Lord.

2. Sing to the world of Christ the Prince of Peace,

showing to us the Father's loving care,
pleading that love should reign and wars might cease,
teaching we need the love of God to share.
Sing to the world of Christ the Prince of Peace.

3. Sing to the world of Christ our steadfast friend,
offering himself to live the constant sign,
food for our souls until we meet life's end,
gives us his flesh for bread, his blood for wine.
Sing to the world of Christ our steadfast friend.

4. Sing to the world of Christ our Saviour King,
Born that his death that world's release should win.
Hung on a cross, forgiveness he could bring;
buried, he rose to conquer death and sin.
Sing to the world of Christ our Saviour King.

5. Sing to the world of Christ at God's right hand,
praise to the Spirit both have sent from heaven.
Living in us till earth shall reach its span,
time be no more, and Christ shall come again.
Sing to the world of Christ at God's right hand.

(words: Patrick Lee; music: Ernest Sands, arr Paul Inwood)

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

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMN [Thou didst leave thy throne](#)

1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
when thou camest to earth for me,
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
for thy holy nativity.

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for thee.*

2. Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang
and proclaimed thee of royal degree,
but in lowliest birth didst thou come to earth
and in deepest humility.

3. Though the fox found rest, and the bird its nest
in the shade of the cedar tree,
yet the world found no bed for the Saviour's head
in the desert of Galilee.

4. Though thou camest, Lord, with the living word
that should set all thy people free,
yet with treachery, scorn and a crown of thorn
did they bear thee to Calvary.

5. When the heav'ns shall ring and the angels sing
at thy coming to victory,
let thy voice call me home, saying, "Heav'n has room,
there is room at my side for thee."

*(words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliot, based on Luke 2:7, adapt Michael Forster;
music: Timothy Richard Matthews)*

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

This evening, Evening Prayer 6.30pm



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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Giving to All Saints

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