

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Believing is seeing

Holy Communion for the third Sunday before Lent
Sunday 16th February 2025

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.

Giving to All Saints: Please see the note at the end of this service sheet.

Music as we gather:

1. Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do.
Father, I place into your hands the things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.
2. Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.
3. Father, we love to see your face, we love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise and in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you and in your presence rest
for we know we always can trust you.
4. Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones that you will draw to you,
for I know that I am one with you.

(words & music: Jenny Hewer)

When the song ends we stand to sing:

HYMN [All my hope on God is founded](#)

1. All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2. Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.

3. God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from his store,
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4. Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

*(words: Paraphrased by Robert Bridges alt,
based on 'Meine Hoffnung stehet feste' by Joachim Neander; music: Herbert Howells)*

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: We confess our sins to God, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Silence

For our fascination with the rich and our revulsion at other's poverty; for taking for granted our own riches and our ignorance of the ways in which we are poor:

Lord have mercy.

For our over consumption and for food waste, insulting you, our provider, and the world's hungry; and for forgetting our deepest hunger is for you:

Christ have mercy.

For our embarrassment with tears, and for our not crying over the things that make you weep:

Lord have mercy.

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

[May] Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

(cf Luke 6:21-26)

THE GLORIA

1. Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heavenly King;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.

2. Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated,
for your mercy, Lord we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy;
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three in One!

We pray THE COLLECT

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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.**

BIBLE READINGS [Jeremiah 17:5-10](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)

HYMN

1. Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.

3. Still to the lowly soul
he doth himself impart,
and for his dwelling and his throne
chooseth the pure in heart.

2. The Lord who left the heav'ns
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with us,
our pattern and our King.

4. Lord, we thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be:
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for thee.

*(words: vv1 & 3 John Keble, vv2 & 4 William John Hall's 'Psalms and Hymns' [1836] alt;
music: 'Harmonischer Liederschatz' [1738], adapt William Henry Havergal)*

GOSPEL READING [Luke 6:17-26](#)

In church we remain standing and, when it is announced, we say:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.
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 David*

At home: Jesus gives four blessings, then four mirroring woes. It's important to hear it as a dramatic, open air speech, not as an intellectual list to tick off. Imagine the rhetorical experience for the disciples and the crowd around them. The shock of hearing that those suffering most may be blessed. Is this offensive or hopeful as you hear it? Then there's the shock of hearing those most fortunate being warned of woe. Such good fortune was normally seen as a sign of divine approval. Sit back a bit, maybe a touch breathless, and think how he has moved us to see the world differently, to read politics and social hierarchies in a fresh way. We still have Mary's Magnificat (from Chapter 2) echoing in the heart about the might put down and the humble lifted up, the hungry fed and the rich sent empty away. What is Jesus up to now? He is clearing our vision, offering a new way of reading situations, so we might perceive the losses wealth and popularity involve and the risks they bear with them; we

might see anew the insights of the poor and the grieving, so generally treated as embarrassments. Allowing Jesus rhetorically to scramble our assumption, to shake us up so we start to see how we acquiesce in the face of structural unfairness and fixate on the distractions of wealth and celebrity. He has levelled the field. He has got us to fair.

But fair is not good enough for Jesus, as fair is only a base line for God. God's being knows about justice and fairness, but sees them as a mere starting point. God, it seems, is more excited about grace. His/Her/Their impulse is to overwhelm fair with transformative goodness that makes things even more exciting. Fair seems an impossible aspiration to us. It is a rather dull option for God. God wants to see grace transforming conflict, healing division, overcoming hardness of heart, overwhelming our sense of safety and scarcity.

- *Let the word Rich settle in you and see who comes to mind. Spend a while with the word Poor and see who comes to mind.*

Are there any ways you might see the first people as poor and the second as, in any way, rich?

Ask yourself, in what ways am I poor and in what ways am I rich?

- *Recall the time you were last really hungry. What did it feel like to be fed again?*
- *Have a think about who you have seen crying, either up close, or in a drama or in the news.*

Without judgment of any of them, give your self space to wonder about why we cry about some things and not others.

- *Then spend some time considering the phenomenon of celebrity: who is famous and why. Who is admired and who is defamed (to use a reading from Jesus in Luke). It may be that it's sometimes the same person, as we have a large appetite for a press that loves to build up in order to knock down.*

Having got us to fair with this powerful overturning, Jesus then goes on to say: "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you..." These are not fair responses. They are gracious, transformative ones. We are being given a whole new way of seeing the world. How will that affect the way we pray for the world?

We affirm our faith

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith:

Deacon: We stand to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All: We believe and trust in God the father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist.**

**We believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again.**

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world.**

**This is the faith of the Church.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(adapted from Common Worship)

INTERCESSIONS

At home:

Now we have plenty of people to pray for among those who have stirred our thoughts on wealth and poverty, hunger and fullness, sorrow and gladness, popularity and marginalisation. Allow God, who alone knows what we really need, to receive them. As we pray so, we allow God to clear our sight to see and read the world more clearly and wisely.

Among those who are unwell we pray for Angela Pain, Rob Hingley and Paula Davies, and Matt and Sue Frost.

Among those who have died we remember Sheila Berry and John Wesson.

THE PEACE

Deacon: Christ has been raised from the dead; the first fruits of those who sleep. The peace of the Lord be always with you. (1 Corinthians 15:20)
And also with you.

We 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, 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 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.

It is a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God of glory, for you formed a people to trust in you, to root their life in yours and to bear fruit without end. When they were parched by sin and thirsting for righteousness, you sent your Son

and let them drink of your forgiving mercies. So you made them like trees planted by streams of water whose leaves do not wither. By the power of your Holy Spirit you raised your Son from death to life, the first fruits of those who have died. Trusting in your all-sufficient ways, your church is rooted in you and continues to bear the fruits of resurrection. And so with your people on earth and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the hymn of glory.

**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.**

Replenishing God, you have the power to transform hunger into blessing; fill us with faith as we feast around this table. As your Son blessed the hungry, send your Spirit upon your Church. As we remember his saving passion, show us the fullness of your love. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son. 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 them 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.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Patient God, you promise your kingdom belongs to the poor: bless your church through the faithful company of those who know poverty. As you bestow laughter upon those who weep, comfort your sons and daughters who cry and show them unending joy. As you extend your goodness to all who are excluded on account of your Son, give courage to those who are persecuted. And as you promise to uphold all who hunger, fill your children, body and soul, with the food that truly satisfies. Bring us to the great day of heavenly reward, that dawn of unending blessedness which we shall

share with all your saints, rejoicing in your glory, ever-faithful God, 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 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, give us your peace. (x2)**

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

HYMNS *during Communion* [Bread of the world in mercy broken](#)

1. Bread of the world in mercy broken,
wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead.

2. Look on the heart by sorrows broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be thy feast to us the token
that by thy grace our souls are fed.

(words: Reginald Heber; music: Louis Bourgeois, from the 'Genevan Psalter' [1551])

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

HYMN

[When, in our music, God is glorified](#)

1. When, in our music, God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!
2. How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!
3. So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue:
Alleluia!
4. And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!
5. Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!

(words: Fred Pratt Green; music: Charles Villiers Stanford)

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ, Amen.

This evening: 6.30pm Service in the Iona Tradition – a service reflecting on healing.



This order of service is printed on sustainably sourced paper and will be recycled.



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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.

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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.

Please take a leaflet about the work of the All Saints Youth Project, now settling into its newly expanded centre, to inform your prayers, and to find out ways of supporting through volunteering.

Anyone interested in the work of the Robin Centre, caring for older people, please speak to Kath Isaac, Des Workman or David Ritchie.