

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Temptation caving in ¹
Holy Communion
First Sunday of Lent, 9th March 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.

Music as we gather: [Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour](#)

*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

1. You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the Word who brings us through the desert:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

2. You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;
you are the one who speaks to us today;
you are the one who leads us to our future:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

3. You are the Word who calls us to be servants;
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word-made-flesh who lives among us:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

¹ Leonard Cohen: "I was fighting with temptation, but I didn't want to win. I'm not the kind of man who likes to see temptation cavin' in" [On the level](#) on the album [You Want it Darker](#).

4. You are the Word who binds us and unites us;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;
you are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

(words & music: Bernadette Farrell)

When the song ends we stand to sing: [Forty days and forty nights](#)

1. Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights,
tempted still, yet unbeguiled.

2. Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed,
prowling beasts about your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

3. Let us your endurance share,
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you vigilant in prayer,
with you strong to suffer pain.

4. Then if evil on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
help us not to swerve or fail.

5. So shall peace divine be ours;
holy gladness, pure and true:
come to us, angelic powers,
such as ministered to you.

6. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at th'eternal Eastertide.

*(words: George Hunt Smyttan, adapt Michael Forster;
music: Melody from 'Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch' [1676])*

Priest: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
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: Jesus Christ said: the first commandment is this. You shall love the
Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with
all your mind and with all your strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

All: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Silence

When we try to satisfy our hunger for you with the wrong things, Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

When fear and jealousy lead nations to compete, invade and steal, Christ, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

When neurosis about reputation and celebrity eclipses honest relationship, Lord, have mercy,

Kyrie eleison.

(“Lord, have mercy,” tune from Ukraine)

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

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

We pray COLLECT for The First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 [Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#)

In Church we remain seated to sing PSALM 91:1-2; 9-end. At home, you might read this aloud.

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the LORD, ‘My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.’

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,

the Most High your dwelling-place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under
foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honour them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

NEW TESTAMENT READING [Romans 10:8b-13](#)

HYMN 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you; allelu, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

2. You shall not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God; allelu, alleluia.

3. Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you; allelu, alleluia.

*(words: v1 Karen Lafferty, vv2&3 Anon, based on Matthew 6:33, 7:7;
music: Karen Lafferty, arr Adrian Vernon Fish)*

GOSPEL READING [Luke 4:1-13](#)

*At home, you might stand for this reading. 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 Tariro.

At Home:

There's nothing wrong with being hungry and wanting to eat. By refusing to turn stones into bread, Jesus does not imply there is. We can set this deliberate, disciplined non-feast over against the feeding of five thousand with more than enough bread and fish, a meal in which he participated, to assert Jesus' affirmation of human hunger being well satisfied. But the temptation is to use his power in creation to please himself alone. He will not do so. He is exploring what it is for a human being to hunger even more for God than we do for food. He is demonstrating how our fleshly existence is most fulfilled and enjoyed when our desires are recognised as symptoms of our deepest desire for God.

There's nothing wrong with leadership per se. Wherever there's more than one person, there will be leadership, hopefully healthily exchanged between us un-competitively, but there will always be leadership, both needed and exercised. At best it is an expression of our being made in the image of God the Trinity in whom authority and love are exchanged un-graspingly between Father Son and Spirit. Jesus' resistance to the temptation of leadership over the whole world is not criticising the idea of leadership, but rather resists a leadership where worldly authority is the be all and end all. Worshipping the Devil in order to receive worldly leadership is a dramatic way of showing that if leadership is competitive, jealous, grasping, dependent on the belittling of those around us, it is earth-bound in its vision. If it has been grasped greedily, it will always fear being taken back. If a leadership forgets God, the authority over all creation, it will develop a sense of entitlement and arrogance that soon becomes distorting and deadly. Such leadership that is never willing to let go, and depends on mocking or hurting others has a fake glory. As we're too well aware gazing East to Russian and West to the USA, it thinks itself glamorous, but is embarrassing and ugly.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to be liked or admired, and there's nothing wrong with wanting to feel safe. Again, the desire for wholesome, affirming relationship is at the heart of what it means to be made in the image of God who, as Trinity is inherently relational and who, even so, created us for affirming relationship with Him/Her/Them. Wanting to feel safe in the world is a symptom of wanting to feel safe with God. Safe with God is another way of saying "Saved." When Jesus resists the third temptation, he does not suggest there is anything wrong with these impulses. Rather, he resists striving for admiration in such a way that we distort ourselves and spoil the chemistry of admiration (rather as we do when we ask for compliments). "Do not put God to the test" is another way of saying "Trust God." The world is a threatening place and there are lots of ways we need sensibly to protect ourselves, but Jesus invites us to consider when our defences begin to keep others and especially God out. At which point do our defences become damaging to relationship?

Ironically, then, this period of self-denial for Jesus turns out to be a study in fullness of life: the richness of a life of healthy desires satisfied; fullness of a polity that, being uncompetitive actually becomes enjoyable; fullness of giving and receiving affirmation and feeling safe, valued in one another's company knowing all are affirmed and safe with God.

If you fast at all (only if it is healthy for you to do so – there could be other ways of experiencing abstinence this Lent if you so need) you might use it as a chance to explore what your deepest hungers are for. Ask God to show how best He/She may satisfy them.

Think over the ways you do or have taken a lead in ways great or seemingly small. Think over how easy or difficult it is to pass that lead on to another.

As yourself what kinds of healthy affirmation you receive and what makes it special. Reflect on whose affirmation you crave most. (Of course this may be a perfectly healthy craving. But give yourself a little space to see if there is any way your hope for affirmation affects your behaviour. See if there is any way you'd like to change, or lessen its influence on you. If this raises any anxiety for you, pause and hear God's word to you: "You are precious, honoured and loved." (Isaiah 43)

We affirm our faith

NICENE CREED

At home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith:

Deacon: I invite you stand as we affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All: We believe in one God, the Father the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

For those at home: We pray for all our Muslim friends, colleagues, school mates and neighbours who are fasting through Ramadan, that they be blessed with a renewed sense of God's closeness and of spiritual hunger being satisfied.

As we each choose our own Lent disciplines, we pray for any who cannot choose to be hungry, for whom hunger is forced upon them. We pray for our ecumenical Lent groups.

Responding to our Deuteronomy reading about thanksgiving, and Jesus' second temptation about power, we pray for the conflicts arising because of jealousy over resources, including Ukraine, tugged between ugly greed for resources by both Russia and the USA. Restore a common human wonder at the gift of creation, and memory of God's authority, that we may learn to enjoy the blessings before us without the need to trample on others'.

Remembering that the foreigners among the people of Israel were for ever to be included in their thanksgiving ceremonies, ensuring entitlement never took hold, we give thanks for the refugees and asylum seekers and neighbours with origins overseas who enrich our life and culture and can...could... help ensure entitlement does not imperil our nation's soul.

Among those who are unwell we pray for John Watling, Rob Hingley, Helga McKiernan and Pope Francis.

Among those who have died we remember Lesley Pitt and Kathy Farbrother.

THE PEACE

Deacon: Christ came to preach peace to those who are far off and peace to those who are near. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [Take my life, and let it be](#)

1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands, and let them
move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it thine:
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

(words: Frances Ridley Havergal; music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart adapt)

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 is here.

All: His 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.

Praise and thanksgiving belong to you, God of every blessing, for you shaped all creation to grow into your abundant and eternal harvest. You called a holy people to share life with you, and when they were captive in Egypt, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm you brought them out of oppression, through the temptations of the wilderness, into a land flowing with milk and honey. In time, your Son came among us, facing wilderness and temptation and hunger to bring us out of bondage to sin and to taste and see that you, the Lord, are good. And so we thank you with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven as we join the unending hymn.

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.

God of mercy, you gave your people manna day by day during their time of testing; and because no one can live by bread alone, you gave Jesus to be our bread from heaven. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church to live as a sign of the way you transform this manna into mercy for all. With your Spirit, bless this bread and this cup 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.

Faithful God, whose Son did not escape suffering and death but accepted and finally overcame them, bring your disciples by the way of his cross to the joy of Easter. Strengthen your church to resist evil of every kind and turn from sin. With your mighty hand and outstretched arm, uphold those enduring trials and any who know their very life is at stake. Be with your children who are heavy-laden, and all who labour beneath the misuse of power by another. Amid temptations to be successful, shape your children first to be faithful to your kingdom, until the day when in your resurrected glory there is one life, one sharing, one holy communion among all the saints with you, to whom all glory belongs for ever, 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: grant us peace.

We share the bread and wine, now for us the body and blood of Christ. All are welcome to receive. If you prefer not to share the common cup, receiving just the bread is as much communion as receiving both. If you prefer not to receive but would value a prayer of blessing do come forward and simply keep your hands by your sides. We will pray for you.

For the sake of those with gluten intolerance, please do not dip your wafer in the wine.

SONG *during Communion* [Purify my heart](#)

1. Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

*Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my master,
ready to do your will.*

2. Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

(words & music: Brian Doerksen)

We are sent out

All: 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 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 [God is working his purpose out](#)

1. God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year.
God is working his purpose out, and the day is drawing near.
Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.
2. From the east to the utmost west wherever foot has trod,
through the mouths of his messengers echoes forth the voice of God:
"Listen to me, ye continents, ye islands, give ear to me,
that the earth shall be filled with the glory of God

as the waters cover the sea.”

3. How can we do the work of God, how prosper and increase harmony in the human race, and the reign of perfect peace? What can we do to urge the time, the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea?

4. All our efforts are nothing worth unless God bless the deed; vain our hopes for the harvest tide till he brings to life the seed. Yet ever nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

*(words: Arthur Campbell Ainger, adapt Michael Forster;
music: Millicent Kingham, in 'Church Hymns' [1903])*

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

This evening's service at 6.30pm

*Each Wednesday evening for the next five weeks we say
Compline at 9pm in the chapel: a simple fifteen minute
service of night prayer.*



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



Hymns and Songs printed under CCL Licence No. 116429

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England
is copyright © the Archbishop's Council (2000)

Eucharistic Prayer from Joining the Angels' Song, © Sam Wells and Abi Kocher 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs may occasionally be taken by our photographer during services. They are to record our church's story and may be used for publicity. If you do not wish your picture or that of your child to be used, please speak to a Sidesperson or Churchwarden. We respectfully ask that others do not take photographs at Church without permission.

All Saints Safeguarding While we are in the process of appointing a new Child Protection Coordinator, 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 David, the Vicar on the dedicated safeguarding number: 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

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.

Kathy Farbrother's Funeral will be held at Grenoside
Crematorium, *5 Skew Hill Lane Grenoside Sheffield*
South Yorkshire S35 8RZ

Thursday 20th March at noon.