



Welcome to
All Saints
Kings Heath
Your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham

The Poverty of Riches

Holy Communion

on the 19th Sunday after Trinity
10th October 2021

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. Perhaps light a candle to mark the beginning of our shared act of worship.

As we gather in Church this month, we invite all to continue to wear masks when entering and moving around Church, but to remove them if you wish when in your place, rather as we do when going for a different kind of feast in a café or restaurant. We continue to respect each other's physical distance and encourage conversation outside Church rather than mingling inside.

We imagine everyone in their homes around the parish, and those in Church, united in preparing for prayer.

Music as we gather

1. [All I once held dear](#), built my life upon,
all this world reveres, and wars to own,
all I once thought gain I have counted loss;
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best, you're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love you, Lord.*

2. Now my heart's desire is to know you more,
to be found in you and known as yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
all-surpassing gift of righteousness.
3. Oh, to know the pow'r of your risen life,
and to know you in your sufferings.
To become like you in your death, my Lord,
so with you to live and never die.

*(words: Graham Kendrick, based on Philippians 3:8-12;
music: Graham Kendrick, arr Keith Stent)*

Priest: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with us all. **Amen.**

Any notices may be shared

HYMN [Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour](#)

1. Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendour, first begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender, liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia, Jesu, true and living bread.
2. Here our humblest homage pay we, here in loving rev'ence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we, lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia, thou art here, we ask not how.
3. Paschal Lamb, thine off'ring, finished once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished shall for evermore remain.
Alleluia, alleluia, cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.
4. Life-imparting heav'nly manna, stricken rock with streaming side,
heav'n and earth with loud hosanna worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia, alleluia, ris'n, ascended, glorified!

(words: George Hugh Bourne; music: George Clement Martin)

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 approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Silence

**All: Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(cf Hosea 6)

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

[May] the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

(music: Dom Gregory Murray)

We pray THE COLLECT for the 19th Sunday after Trinity

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.**

READING [Amos 5:6-7; 10-15](#)

READING [Hebrews 4:12-end](#)

HYMN [O God, our help in ages past](#)

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.
2. Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream,
dies at the op'ning day.
6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

(words: Isaac Watts alt; music: William Croft)

GOSPEL READING [Mark 10:17-31](#)

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.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON from The Revd Nigel Pietroni

I am training to be a warrior....

Now before you get carried away imagining me dressed as some kind of Roman Centurion about to enter the Colosseum and fight to my death, let me say its not that kind of warrior!

Nor is it some modern 'he man' kind of a warrior, training to go into battle overseas...

No I am part of a fitness programme called 'training for warriors', which recognises that life and fitness is a journey, and many of us have many battles to overcome in order to be physically fit people we could be.

Three times a week for 12 weeks I will meet with my fellow warriors and together we will encourage one another, cry together, and depending on the exercise, swear together as we seek to be more physically fit versions of ourselves.

Now you must understand that physical fitness is not something in my life I have often aspired to - known for my lack of physical fitness for much of my life this is a relatively new departure for me ...and I am loving it. I quite like discovering my inner warrior!

It actually signifies something more than physical fitness. It is part of the process of leaving behind so much of what I held dear, and allowing myself to fully be the person that I was always meant to be. Mentally. Physically. Spiritually.

So much of my life prior to 2018 was trying to be something I couldn't ever really hope to be, whilst denying the person that God made me to be. Gay, but pretending to be straight. Outwardly mentally well, but inwardly in turmoil. Physically lacking in serious illness, but overweight and creaking at the joints.

Fearful of losing my family, my vocation as a priest, my life, my house, my role, I clung on to everything I had and to the lies I told myself and the world. And then I let it go. I am far from sorted, I am a lifelong work in progress- as we all are, if we are honest - but though I lost almost everything I have gained so much more, and I am happy to be me. Love, family, identity, a fresh awareness of my vocation as a priest and the depth of God's love. I have discovered riches amidst the poverty of my losses.

We hear in our Gospel reading: Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

I wonder what drove the man to Jesus. I wonder what was going on in his life that caused him to run to Jesus, kneel down, and ask his question. What was he clinging to that he needed to let go? What's the desperation behind his question?

It's a restless, sleepless night kind of question.

It's a daytime longing and searching kind of question.

It's the kind of question that becomes a prayer or a call to a friend.

It's more than just a religious question, however. It was for the man and it is for us. It's not about doctrine or theology. And it's not about the future. It's about this moment. It's about life and it's about being more alive. What must I do to have the fullness of life right here, right now?

As I reflect on my life now and the difference the last 4 years have made, I realise it is about a quality of life, not a quantity. The man in today's gospel has plenty. He's rich with property, possessions, wealth. Maybe you too have had the experience of getting something you really wanted and then finding yourself still lacking? Something was missing and quantity could not fill the emptiness of quality.

"You lack one thing," Jesus tells the man. What Jesus does is show him a way forward. He offers a new day and a fresh start.

Maybe you have asked the question when seemingly you have it all - good job, loving family, enough money to live on, but underneath you are despairing.

Maybe you have asked the question when you have nothing and don't know where the next meal will come from or when the fuel bill will be paid.

Maybe you have asked the question when the weight of life was more than you could carry, when things were spinning out of control, when grief was strangling your soul; when the life you were living was not the life you desired. Maybe some of you are experiencing that today. What must I do to inherit eternal life? What must I do to find myself again? What must I do to be more fully alive? How do I step through the impossibility of what is and into the possibility of what might be?

We'd like to turn back time, undo the past, escape the moment. That's impossible. That's not going to happen.

I can't go back and do things differently, and nor can any of us. You know that and so do I. But what is the possibility in that impossibility? That's our real question and it's the one the man in today's gospel is asking. He wants a different quality of life, a second chance, a new beginning, a new day. I know about that and many of you do too.

It's so easy to hear Jesus 'words as a challenge, as something to be accomplished, as demanding more than we are prepared to give or do. "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

But what if we hear Jesus 'words as words of hope and words of salvation? I am not talking about salvation as a reward, as being made safe, or even comfortable; but as being turned upside down, being unhinged, a reordering of life, a freedom to become, the gift of a new day. And I am not talking about hope as a feeling, a wish, or an escape from this moment; but as a coming of the possibility in the impossible, a voice, a calling that asks a response from us.

That is what Jesus is offering that man and each of us: Hope. Salvation. Each day is a new day and a fresh opportunity.

To get this new life, the old one must be let go of. And that's hard when there is so much to let go of. The man is invested in what he has. Most of us are. And what he wants will cost him everything he has. There can be no holding on to the things or events of the past if we want to step into a new day. That doesn't mean we forget, deny, or ignore the past. It just means the past no longer has power over us and dictates what is or is not possible.

This letting go of the old for the new is not a trade, an exchange, or a balancing of the books. And it's not a price we pay to God. It's about the freedom to become, the freedom to step into a new life, the freedom to see the possibility in the impossible.

What might you need to let go of in order to step into a new day and make a fresh start? What possibilities await you in what looks like the impossible?

Let's not kid ourselves - the work is a lifelong journey. I will not become a physically fit warrior of fitness in 12 weeks, nor will I ever have life fully sorted. I will continue to make mistakes.

When the man heard what Jesus had to say "he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions." There's a lot to let go of. Sometimes it's monetary wealth and possessions; sometimes it's a wealth of anger, fear, guilt; sometimes it's a wealth of busyness, our calendar, and task lists; sometimes it's the wealth of our reputation, another's approval, or our power; sometimes it's the wealth of ingrained habits and attitudes.

I can understand why the man feels what he does, can't you? We invest ourselves in lots of stuff and I like my stuff, don't you? For better or worse it has brought us to this point in life, but then something happens and we realise that it can take us no further. And we grieve when what we have is lost, taken away, or let go of.

We often hear this story as saying the man chose not to follow Jesus, but that's not what the text says. Today's gospel does not say that he refused to do what Jesus said. But neither does it say that he did what Jesus said. It says he turned away grieving. Maybe he went home and immediately sold his stuff, gave the money to the poor, and chased after Jesus. Maybe he did it a month later or eight years later. Or maybe he never did it. We just don't know. And that's ok. What he did or did not do is not the issue. The issue is about us, what we do or do not do.

Do you know what happened the morning after the man went away grieving? The same thing that happened the morning after I finally let go of all that had been weighing me down for 47 years, and the same thing that happens the morning after we have faced whatever hopelessness and impossibility we face.

A new day dawned and the sun rose once again. Light and warmth entered our world. What more could we ask for? That's the miracle in the impossible. That doesn't necessarily make life easy or comfortable. It makes new life possible.

Hope. Salvation. The possibility of a fresh start. Life resurrected. The dawn of a new day. A gift.

So tell me, what will you do with your new precious and possibility-filled day?

We affirm our faith

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

Let us stand, firm in our faith in God, revealed to us as 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 [hu]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 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 led by Clare Noakes

Heavenly father, hear us as we come to you in this new day, hopeful and positive, ready to let your love shape our lives, keeping us true to ourselves, but mindful of the people around us and open to the new possibilities for us and for others that you will present us with.

We pray for the world and all that is in it. As the leaders of the nations prepare for COP26 we pray for the those in every nation working to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change on a global scale. We pray that the leaders of the richest countries will use their power and wealth to find solutions and agreements that will work for all and give us all the opportunity to play our part in rescuing our world from this climate emergency. We pray for the nations which are affected by the actions of others, whether because of climate change or natural disaster or other

humanmade disasters, greed, a quest for power or a disregard for people who are different. Guide all leaders in the ways of truth and justice, seeking peace and equity for all they govern.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the church throughout the world. Bless and guide all who lead congregations, however large or small, that your church may be a safe, nurturing place for everyone who looks for somewhere to belong. As Black History Month continues, we pray for those newly announced as the Church of England's Racial Justice Commission members, but remember that building a world without racism is the responsibility of every one of us. Help us all to express the kindness, equity, understanding and tolerance that you so clearly teach.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our local community here in Kings Heath. Especially we pray for Angela, our new parish administrator, as she starts her important role here, connecting and serving our congregation, our campus and the wider community. We pray for all those who live and work here. Help us all to play our part in making Kings Heath a safe, caring, respectful place, celebrating the richness of diversity and looking beyond our differences to create a tolerant, understanding and fair society. We pray for all who have recently to or from Birmingham, particularly students moving away from home for the first time and ask for your blessing on those who are starting new chapters in their lives, whether here or elsewhere.

Lord in your mercy...

Hear us as we remember all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those who are confined to home or hospital, unable to see loved ones or scared of what lies ahead. We pray for all who care for them, the medical and health professionals in our hospitals, doctors' surgeries and care homes, and the families and friends who support all who are in need. We pause for a moment to remember all those who are known to us... be with them in their time of need and let them feel the strength of your unending love.

Lord in your mercy...

Father of all, we pray to you all those whom we love but who have died and we see no longer. We pray for those who have recently died and those who are long departed, but still held in our hearts and memories. Comfort those who mourn and uphold them as they find ways to accept and live with the loss of their loved ones.

Lord in your mercy...

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth. Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy.

Merciful father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ.

THE PEACE

We pause to remember each other: those worshipping at home, and those worshipping in Church, and those we care for who are far away.

Deacon: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit. We say to one another:
The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

HYMN [Inspired by love and anger](#)

1. Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by endless pain,
aware of God's own bias, we ask him once again:
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-int'rest turn prayer and pity blind?"
2. From those for ever victims of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when pris'ners and dreams find their release?"
3. From those for ever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
the fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry:
"Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"
4. To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a diff'rent age,
we offer earth's indiff'rence, its agony and rage:
"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be gen'rous to all instead of some?"
5. God asks: "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

*(words: John L Bell & Graham Maule;
music: Traditional Irish melody, arr Richard Lloyd)*

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, we long for Communion. With this symbolic meal stir my hope for the fellowship meal we cannot yet see, and help me wait for it with patience. **Amen.** (cf Romans 8:2)

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.

We lift our hearts to you with thanks and praise, Almighty God, for nothing is impossible with you. You brought the universe to life and called a people to be your own. In Jesus you came and laid bare your purpose for us and all creation. In him you parted with all your possessions, came close to the poor and lived humbly with us. He is our great high priest who has passed through the heavens; he sympathised with our weaknesses and was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Because of his dying and rising we approach your throne with boldness, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need. And so with the whole host of heaven, we join in singing your eternal song:

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.

(music: Dom Gregory Murray)

Reconciling God, in baptism you ask us to let go of family, friends and security; but from you we receive back a hundredfold in brothers and sisters, mothers and children and in the age to come eternal life. As your church offers this food to you, give us back your glory, your wisdom and your power, that we may be your Son's body in the world. Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of 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

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Living and active God, your Word divides soul from spirit, joint from marrow. Speak your truth into the lives of all who plead for your saving power today. Hear the cries of those whose complaint is bitter; comfort any whose voices are weighed down with groaning; bless your children when they wish they could vanish and long for thick darkness to cover them. When our salvation seems as impossible as a camel passing through the eye of a needle, come among us with the joy and power of your Son's resurrection and astound us with your grace, until that day when every eye shall see you and every tongue shall tell how great is your mercy and wondrous your glory, Holy Trinity of love.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

AGNUS DEI *is sung*

[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.

(music: Dom Gregory Murray)

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

ANTHEM *during Communion*

[What a friend we have in Jesus](#)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to him in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged: take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer!
3. Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus only is our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

(words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven; music: Charles Crozat Converse)

Inside or outside,
we are called to serve

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with your Word *[and with the body of Christ]*. Strengthen us in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

HYMN

[There's a wideness in God's mercy](#)

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement giv'n.

2. But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed,
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
3. For the love of God is broader than the scope of human mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;
and our hearts would find assurance in the promise of the Lord.

(words: Frederick William Faber alt; music: from the 'Paderborn Gesangbuch' [1765])

We imagine our scattered fellowship, family, colleagues and neighbours, praying for blessing on all:

*[May] the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we put our trust in him, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.***

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

VOLUNTARY



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