



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

Creation Dis-illusions Us

Holy Communion in Climate-tide

on the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
12th September 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.

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

Music as we gather

1. We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wild flowers growing
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in every earthly nation.

2. When bodies shiver in the night
and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labour,
that all be have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbour.

3. God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure for ever.

(Words: Ruth Duck; music: Marty Haugen)

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

NOTICES and BANNS

HYMN [Christ, whose glory fills the skies](#) *during which Youth Group members go for discussion over breakfast.*

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3. Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

(words: Charles Wesley; music: Johann Gottlob Werner's 'Choralbuch', Leipzig [1815])

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: As Climate-tide continues, we confess the damaging power of speech:
(see James 3)

Silence

God, we bless you and yet curse those made in your image.
This ought not to be so.

Lord, have mercy.

Cruel words set the world on fire with conflict.

Words of denial make temperatures rise with pollution.

This ought not to be so.

Christ, have mercy.

Domestic and political life is poisoned by hurtful speech.

This ought not to be so.

Lord, have mercy.

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

[May] the God of love and power forgive *[us]* and free *[us]* from all *[our]* sins, strengthen *[us]* by his Spirit and raise *[us]* to new life in 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 a Climate-tide prayer about diversity, written by Preb. Chris Thorpe in anticipation of the Climate summit.

God of all diversity and growth, you bless us with the complex web of life, each part depending on all others. Every plant and fungus, every animal, insect, and bacterium, and every human being depend on you, and on the wonderful world you are creating. Give us grace to see you in creation, to honour you in our care for the world around us, and to sustain the life-giving environment of the earth. We pray in Jesus name, who brings healing and new life for our world. **Amen.**

READING [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

READING [James 3:1-12](#)

HYMN

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

2. For the beauty of the hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light:

3. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

4. For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely giv'n,
graces human and divine,
flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:

5. For thy Church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
off'ring up on ev'ry shore
her pure sacrifice of love:

(words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint; music: Geoffrey Shaw, adapt from a folk song)

GOSPEL READING [Mark 8:27-end](#)

Deacon: 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 Nigel Pietroni*

Having taught for some years, been a school governor for longer than I care to imagine, and of course being a parent, I still segment the year into school terms. For me September will always be the start of the new year, the moment when after (hopefully a restful break) life in all its fullness kicks in once more. For many years that sense of a new beginning had a real sense of excitement about it, awash with fresh possibilities. The weather of course always helped, inevitably improving as the schools returned but with the natural world displaying its finery, leaves gradually colouring and fruits dripping from the trees.

It may be the fact I am growing older, but September no longer has a sense of thrill about it. In truth I feel a sense of disillusionment with the world as bad news appears to lead to bad news. We are a nation that seems inexorably to be divided, and I have come to wonder if one of the primary things that unites us as a country today might just well be our collective disillusionment. It seems to be everywhere, and on all sides, Tory Blue, Labour Red and every shade in between. Now we may not agree on what we are disillusioned about but I think it's a common disease from which we are all suffering. There is disillusionment with our leaders and the political system, with economic opportunities, with endless wars and violence, with prejudice and oppression, with religion and the church, though the vote in the Church in Wales to allow the blessing of Same sex marriage and the vote to allow Same sex marriage in The Methodist Church managed to raise my hopes somewhat!

I suspect disillusionment is, in large part, what helped get Boris Johnson elected and is what keeps his followers loyal. I suspect it is also what energises those of us who disagree with and oppose him and this government. I read disillusionment in Facebook posts. I hear it in conversations and accusations. I recognise it in the decline of church attendance and influence.

And every one of us could tell a story about our personal disillusion, the disillusion that is unique and particular to our life and life's circumstances. Disillusion happens when the story we've told ourselves, the story on which we based our lives and beliefs, the story to which we committed ourselves, no longer makes sense, is no longer relevant, no longer works, or is no longer true. Disillusionment is an in between time, a time when we have lost faith in the old familiar story but have not yet embraced another story. It leaves us panicked and fearful about the future. The

world feels like a dangerous and chaotic place, out of control. And somebody needs to do something.

In this season at All Saints as we think about Climate Change, this is perhaps the biggest disillusion of all. The natural world is breathtaking in its complexity and beauty. There is, for me, no greater proof of a divine imagination than the glories of this planet we call home; everything so intricately designed; everything so inter connected. And, despite our unearthing of so many of its secrets, nature's mystery and miracle continue to cause us to be amazed.

From the marathon march of the penguins to the choreographed 'murmurations' of starlings, we are left spellbound. And yet for generations the governments of this world, and if we are honest many of our brothers and sisters, and if we are brutally honest you and I, have ignored the prophetic voices that were calling us to take notice of our human destruction, the cries from the wild, the signs of stress. Is it any wonder that we have a sense of disillusionment.

The problem with disillusion however, is that so often it leads to an inability to act. With the effects of climate change impacting our world relentlessly this last few years with destructive wildfire, deathly floods, catastrophic and more deadly hurricanes, melting ice caps and a change in the Gulf Stream and other ocean currents critical to life, we cannot allow disillusionment to get the better of us.

I want then to think about disillusionment for a few moments. Disillusionment begins within us. It's a spiritual issue. And it's one Peter knows well. In today's gospel he is the picture of disillusionment.

He's confessed Jesus as the Messiah. He has a particular story about who the Messiah is and what the Messiah should do and be about. Jesus, however is about to undo and rewrite Peter's story. "The Son of Man," he says, "must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." So much for Peter's understanding of the Messiah.

That's neither what he expected nor what he wanted. So he takes Jesus aside and rebukes him, as if he knows more and better than Jesus. In Matthew's version of this story we hear what Peter says to Jesus. "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you" (Mt. 16:22).

Peter confesses and Peter rebukes, all with the same tongue in the same conversation. It's what James is describing in today's epistle.

Listen to the disillusionment in your own life or in the life of another and you'll likely hear blessing and cursing coming from the same mouth. "With" the tongue, James

says, “we bless the Lord and Father, and we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.” In our same breath we can easily find ourselves condemning the government for its handling of climate change and in the next happily book or encourage others to book a flight to travel across the world using however many million gallons of fossil fuel. Myself included. Or at least we did before COVID!

Jesus has no time for or interest in Peter’s arrogant self-assertion. For his disillusionment. “Get behind me, Satan,” he says. Those are the same words Jesus spoke during his temptations in the wilderness. Jesus hears Peter’s rebuke as a temptation to be less than who he is and as a distraction from the work he is about. Maybe that’s true for Peter, and for you and me. Disillusion tempts us to be less than who we truly are, tempts us to think about our desires first and tempts us to lose sight of what we are really about and what we need to do.

With all the bad news around we may feel as if disaster is imminent and the world is going to end tomorrow, disillusion kicks in and we lose the energy to act and make a difference. But though the effects of climate change are already devastating and disastrous and devastating the world is not going to end tomorrow, though there are very serious implications for much of the world today, our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren if we allow disillusionment to dominate and stop us from making the changes we need and cease to put pressure on those in authority to go further.

We need to embrace a different story. Jesus gives Peter and us a new story. He is the new story.

It’s a story of self-denial. “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me.” It’s not just a story that Jesus tells. It’s the story he lives and if any want to become his followers it must become their story.

What would self-denial look like in your life this next week? I am not talking about self-denial as a denial of our needs or desires. It’s not suffering for the sake of suffering as if that is inherently holy. The first half of Mark’s account of the gospel describes Jesus healing and relieving suffering and oppression. And self-denial is more than just giving up a particular behaviour, though that’s sometimes not a bad thing.

What if self-denial is about separating from that which we often use to define ourselves and each other; political parties, national identity, economic status, family of origin, even religion? What if it is about redefining ourselves, our priorities, and our beliefs to be more in line with those of Jesus? What if self-denial is the key to loving our neighbour, our enemy, God, the world and even ourselves? Putting other needs before our own.

Maybe self-denial is what makes space and place for another and recognises her or his life as important and sacred as ours. Maybe self-denial is, paradoxically, what allows us to come alive. Maybe it means re-examining our beliefs and attitudes about who we are, who another is, and who God is. As the leaders of the world prepare for the vital COP summit in Glasgow this autumn, our prayer for them should be for self denial and instead of self interest to put themselves in the shoes of the whole world experiencing the devastating effects of climate change. As should we.

Self-denial might just be the medicine for our disillusionment, and may, even now save the world from destruction from our own hands.

We affirm our faith

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

Deacon: We stand, if able, to affirm our faith in God our creator, redeemer and sustainer:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All: I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the Faith of the Church

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

INTERCESSIONS led by Tariro

Loving God we ask for your presence amongst us and thank you for the opportunity to gather as we worship you as your children all over the world. Often, we do not know what we ought to ask for, but we know your Spirit can help us so pour out your spirit on us especially during this time as we as your church look for what we can do, think, and talk about the climate and the impact our actions have had on it.

Grant us all wisdom and courage to play our part, encourage and help each other for the greater good. We think of our leaders in governments all over the world, grant wisdom, vision, and energy to those who might be tiring in their fight against injustice and all modes of ill treatment. Let all human endeavour that is wasted in limited aims be turned to your eternal purpose.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayers**

We pray for all those whom you have called to leadership within your church no matter how big or small the role they play that they may continue to be open, warm, and loving to all they serve and welcome all who seek you and join in worship. Help us all in our relationships with others within the church, as families, with neighbours and the strangers within our society especially thinking of all the refugees as they seek shelter and places of welcome.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who are having to pick up the pieces of their lives back together after losing homes and loved ones following the California wildfires, Hurricane Ida, flooding in Ghana and South Sudan and effects of the earthquake and Hurricane Grace still being felt. We pray for countries affected by drought especially thinking of Vietnam and Serbia amongst many other countries and the ongoing fight against covid in the world. We thank you for all those who have extended a helping hand and said prayers for them. May you meet them in their needs and provide. May you comfort and heal their broken hearts. Help us to know ways in which we too can help.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We bring before you those who are suffering in body, spirit, and mind, those who are weak and cannot manage on their own known to us and in our hearts. We pray for those in hospital or receiving care from home. We thank you for the help and care being provided for them to alleviate their pain and help in recovery. Father draw near to them giving hope and comfort as we pray for healing. Surround them with love as they look up to you for strength.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We remember all who have died and commend them to your everlasting love. May we walk with those who are grieving with compassion and understanding.

Guide us as we begin this new week and shine a light on the paths we walk.

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

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: You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. We say to one another: (Isaiah 55:12)

All: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Praise, O praise our God and King;
hymns of adoration sing:

*For his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure.*

2. Praise him that he made the sun
day by day his course to run:

3. And the silver moon by night,
shining with her gentle light:

4. Praise him that he gave the rain
to mature the swelling grain:

5. And hath bid the fruitful field
crops of precious increase yield:

6. Praise him for our harvest-store;
he hath filled the garner-floor:

7. And for richer food than this,
pledge of everlasting bliss:

8. Glory to our bounteous King;
glory let creation sing:

*Glory to the Father, Son
and blest Spirit, Three in One.*

*(words: Henry Williams Baker; music: from 'Hymn Tunes of the United Brethren', adapt John Bernard Wilkes)
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 give thanks for God's tenderness toward creation

Priest: The Lord be with you,

All: and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you and saying:

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)

We praise you, we bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. do this in remembrance of me.

A bell is rung

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All: 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.**

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.

ANTHEMS *during Communion* [Glory and praise to God](#)

Glory and praise to God! All the skies sing praise;
songs from the sun and moon, from the nights and days:
no human voice is there, no mortal speech is heard;
still through the depths of space speeds the sounding word.
Up comes the morning sun for his mighty race,
and the Lord shines on us with his truth and grace.

Glory and praise to God for his perfect law,
making the simple wise and the waverer sure.
Sweeter than honeycomb, richer than purest gold;
praise for redemption's plan which the words unfold.
Lord, keep my heart from sin, you have set me free:
be my life and my light; Jesus, shine on me.

(words: Christopher Idle, from Psalm 19; music: Geoffrey Shaw, arr David Iliff)

1. I planted a seed
and now that seed is growing,
oh, how that seed is growing
out of all the ground of me!
I planted a seed
but there's no way of knowing,
but there's no way of knowing
is it fruit or flow'r or weed?
There is no way of showing
till it blooms for all to see.

2. I planted a thought
and now that thought is taking,
oh, how that thought is taking
over all the mind of me!
I planted a thought,
and, love or hate, it's breaking,
and, love or hate, it's breaking
out and never will be caught;
and love or hate it's making
of the way you think of me.

3. I planted a word
and now that word is yelling,
oh, how that word is yelling
out of all the mouth of me!
I planted a word
and truth or lie it's telling,
and truth or lie it's telling
just whenever it is heard.
Whatever it is spelling,
it will soon be clear to see.

4. I planted a deed
and now that deed is spreading,
oh, how that deed is spreading
far beyond the reach of me!
I planted a deed,
for good or bad it's heading,
for good or bad it's heading –
oh who knows where it will lead?
Should I be glad, or dreading –
Here it comes straight back to me!

(words: Arthur Scholey, based on the Parable of the Sower; music: John Jones)

We are sent out from Church and turned outwards at home

We pray:

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.

FINAL HYMN [Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it](#)

1. Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
for by his pow'r each tree and flow'r was planned and made.
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord!*

2. Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calv'ry's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,
yet gave his life as ransom thus setting us free.

3. Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqu'ror,
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

(words & music: David J Mansell)

THE BLESSING

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

[May] God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon *[us]* his children, that *[we]* may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples: and the blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *[us]* and remain with *[us]* now and always. **Amen.**

Deacon: Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in the pace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY Offertory on 'Old 100th' (*Michael Joseph; played by Benjamin Noakes*)



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