



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

Gentleness born of wisdom

Holy Communion in Climate-tide

on the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
19th 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

*Through the wind and waves and the rising tides, Jesus is Lord of all.
Through the raging fires and the storms that come, Jesus still is Lord of all.*

1. Look around Lord! Look our way. Be the thunder in our day.
Echo loud, echo silent, through the storms and our dismay.
Change is coming, earth is warming, our common home in disarray.
2. Wake up people! Look around! Change is coming on the ground.
Fires are raging, floods are surging, waters rising, creatures drowned.
Change is coming, earth is warming, our common home where fear abounds.
3. Holy Spirit wake us up! Rouse your people, build us up.
He says be still! and winds obey. He says Shalom! our fears allay.
Faith is growing, courage standing, Holy Spirit stay! we pray.

(words: Silvia Purdie; music: Cyril Murphy)

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

NOTICES and BANNES

HYMN [All hail the power of Jesus' name](#)

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name,
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

2. Crown him, all martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
praise him whose way of pain you trod,
and crown him Lord of all.

3. O prophets faithful to his word,
in matters great and small,
who made his voice of justice heard,
now crown him Lord of all.

4. All sinners, now redeemed by grace,
who heard your Saviour's call,
now robed in light before his face,
O crown him Lord of all.

5. Let every tribe and every race
who heard the freedom call,
in liberation, see Christ's face
and crown him Lord of all.

6. Let every people, every tongue
to him their hearth enthral:
lift high the universal song
and crown him Lord of all.

(words: Edward Perronet, adapt Michael Forster; music: William Shrubsole)

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 confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep Gods commandments and to live in love and peace with creation:

Silence

Where envy and selfish ambition have made us greedy, our consumption out of control,

Lord, have mercy.

Where peaceable wisdom has been mocked and marginalised,

Christ, have mercy.

Where cravings are at war within us, ruining families and nations,

Lord, have mercy.

(see James 3)

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

[May] the almighty and merciful God grant [us] pardon and forgiveness of all [our] sins, time for amendment of life, time to reverse environmental damage, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE GLORIA

*[Glory! Glory! Glory to God!](#)
[Glory! Glory! Glory to God!](#)*

1. Glory to God in the heights of the heavens.
Peace to God's people, all people on earth.

2. Son of the Father, all glory and worship;
praise and thanksgiving to you, Lamb of God.

3. You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.

4. Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.

5. And with the Spirit of love everlasting,
reigning in glory for ever. Amen.

(words & music: George Salazar, trans/arr Paul Inwood)

THE COLLECT for the sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you: and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have the grace and power faithfully to fulfil the; 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 [Jeremiah 11:18-20](#)

READING [James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a](#)

HYMN

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we will find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

(words & music: Richard Gillard, arr Betty Pulkingham)

GOSPEL READING [Mark 9:30-37](#)

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 Tariro

Understanding is key

There once was a church looking for a pastor. They posted an advert and people applied for the post. They did interviews and asked each candidate to bring a sermon to preach for the panel. The panel after hearing these well-crafted sermons decided on a candidate who got the job. On the first Sunday, the pastor turned up and led well and gave a sound sermon rich in scripture that spoke to the congregates. After the service they spoke about how they had found the perfect person.

The next Sunday, once again, the pastor led very well and delivered a great sermon which really spoke to the congregation except, it was the sermon from the previous week. The people found it a bit strange but spoke about how they had learned another thing they had missed the last time.

The third Sunday the pastor preached yet again the same sermon and this time eyebrows rose. 'Not again!' and so they had some words with the elders. Yes, He is good, and the sermon was good, but we cannot keep hearing the same sermon!

The fourth Sunday came and once again, the same sermon and this time as soon as the service ended, they approached him in his office. The pastor with a cheerful smile asked, '*How can I help you?*' They responded, '*We are concerned. You have been preaching the same sermon since you arrived. Do you have another sermon?*' The pastor replied, '*I have another sermon, but this church hasn't obeyed the first one yet.*'

I promise I'm not going to repeat my last sermon but there definitely is something to be learned from this story.

For those who love watching series, previously on our sermon series on Climate-tide:

David spoke to us highlighting our carbon output and the people being mostly affected by it. He shared from the conversation that Jesus had with a foreigner that '*it is a reminder that environmental reformation is an interfaith as well as international obligation*', and that '*we must hold our gaze on creation.*'

Nigel shared with us on disillusionment as an in between time of what we knew but no longer hold and another story we have not yet embraced and the effect that that has on us: leaving us panicked and fearful of the future and encouraged us to embrace the new story through self-denial, and that maybe that becomes the medicine for our disillusionment as we fight to save the world from destruction.

Today in our Gospel, we encounter Jesus predicting his death for the second time. To Jesus this is a matter of urgency, it is important as he journeys towards Jerusalem, towards the cross. They have to know; they have to understand what is coming and what that would mean for them. Jesus is now in teaching mode. For those who have TVs you know you have to be in the right mode for you to connect and be able to watch a show or else you get a blank screen or random noises as with the radio.

When Jesus predicted his death the first time (Mk 8:31-33), Peter rebuked him – misunderstanding what was going on. Here we find Jesus repeating again the message and being told 'they did not understand' vs 32.

When we first started hearing about climate-tide, carbon footprint and the effects this has on our world, maybe for some of us it went past our heads or maybe we did hear but did not understand like the disciples in our gospel today. Hearing and understanding are two different things and today we can clearly see that as Jesus predicts his death a second time. You see, there is something about understanding that shifts your focus, that makes you think, that makes you reflect and in turn brings about change – at least I hope.

In Mark 9:32 it then tells us that they did not understand and were afraid to ask him about it. Now is no longer the time to just listen but to act but to act, we must first understand. This message, the warnings, are coming with urgency because we have been hearing but have we been understanding? We have not been doing enough. If we seek to understand what is going on, then it is time we do away with our fears and step out with courage and do more. The disciples needed to. In the gospel passage there seems to be an issue because in the next verse we find Jesus asking them what they were talking about, but they keep quiet. They have the teacher with them, the one person who can help them understand and yet fear gets in the way.

There is clearly a gap in the middle. What they expect and what Jesus is predicting are worlds apart. Jesus is talking about his death, about him going to the cross which he says with great emphasis. For them, it's more important to talk about who is the greatest and when you think about it inappropriate considering the conversation on the table is about Jesus' death. They are talking about their place in heaven and so when asked, they would rather not seek clarification and show their ignorance and so they keep quiet. Maybe they were afraid to be rebuked but Proverbs 27: 5 teaches us that, 'Better an open rebuke than love that is hidden.'

Have we ever changed the subject on someone's pain? Perhaps we let our fear control us? Have we heard of the impact of our carbon output and yet not acted on it? How many times have we seen the advert on TV, animals captured that have died and people struggling and have changed the channel because we just cannot look at it and yet we have continued doing the same things, the same way because we heard but did not understand or maybe we chose the way of ignorance. How many times have we chosen to focus on what advances us, what serves us, what makes us comfortable? Afraid to disturb the 'peace', the status quo? Maybe we just did not understand.

You see, not understanding something is not a problem. It's what we do when we know that we have not understood that becomes a problem because we go about harming others. It's like driving in the dark without your lights on. Where I come from streetlights are in the cities and the

way things are going, well, you are lucky if they are all working. In highways, in villages or the countryside there are no streetlights, so you really need those lights on or else you are going to hit people, animals or just drive straight off the road.

But you have to love Jesus's attitude. He knows they do not understand, and clearly knows what they were talking about because he goes on to say in verse 35, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.' There is that word: SERVANT. Being a servant leader requires us to have the best interest of others at heart. It is looking at those who are below and seeking to serve, to help them, to look into their needs and provide for them. It is listening, being self-aware, having foresight, being empathetic, showing stewardship, wanting to heal or bring healing. It is meeting people where they are and understanding them and that's what James 3 told us today.

Verse 13 starts off by asking us, 'Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.' We cannot keep on being selfish and claim that we understand or say we are acting out of wisdom. Where we lack understanding it is on us to be brave and seek the knowledge that we need. Hosea 4:6 says, 'My people perish from lack of knowledge. They have rejected knowledge...' We have to go back and seek the knowledge we have forsaken, and we are told it can only come from one place, from heaven: 'the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.' These verses seem to be describing one who is like a servant, one who seeks to serve rather than be served.

We have to understand that God can see our motives. Some of us when we go to God asking, we are approaching him with the wrong motives, with selfish ambition. James (4:3) says, 'When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures'. Remember the widows offering in Mark 12:43. The poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins but Jesus in turn said she had put more. Others were giving out of their wealth with the crowds watching them, but she had given all she had – so little yet so much!

Are we focused on people seeing how much we have helped, how much we have given, on what gives us pleasure, what makes us feel and look good? It is not a competition. Are we refusing to see the issues in our own garden while highlighting the problems others have? Yes, we can help all the causes out there in the world but let us remember, charity begins at home. There is so much we can do here in our church, here in our parish, here in our city whose effects can be felt even in the developing countries that need our help, in the torn communities that need our prayers. What must start first is understanding and when we do not understand, seek out the knowledge, ask the questions. Jesus says whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me. To those who have spent any significant time with children will know that the question that you get are nonstop and it starts with, '**Why**'?

Jeremiah testifies that because the Lord gave him a revelation, then he knew of their plot. He understood that which he had not understood or comprehended (Jer 11:19). We too when we seek understanding, when we leave our selfish ambitions, when we seek to be like the servant, when we cease to fight to be the greatest, will make a huge impact in the land we live in. We too

will be able to fulfil the mandate God gave us to take care of the earth and fulfil our marks of mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

May we submit ourselves to God, be near to him as he draws near to us. May He grant us wisdom and with it understanding and with it courage as we fight to save his creation. Amen

We affirm our faith

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

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

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS led by Chris Pearce

Remembering those of our congregation praying at home and those at All Saints, let us join together to pray for our church and our world.

In response to the bidding, God of Love, we reply, Hear our prayer.
God of love, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all people of faith, especially those whose beliefs put them in danger. We pray for everyone leading worship around the world, in our country, our city and here at All Saints. We pray for David, Tariro, John and all who lead any form of worship at All Saints. We pray for Bishop Mark and for David, our Bishop and Justin, our Archbishop. Instill them with your wisdom.
God of love, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for everyone with a role of responsibility whether elected or otherwise. We pray for our UK Government and for those given new responsibility this week. We pray for those electing and being elected in Germany after Angela Merkel's long and reliable leadership. We pray for those leading in Afghanistan and for those women who are being denied a voice in the closure of women's ministry. We pray that those leading will not return to oppression and violence in the name of religion. We pray for those leading organisations. Help them know your love and act with humility, empathy and understanding for all those who are affected by their decisions.
God of love, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for everyone working in hospitals, doctors surgeries and vaccination centres as they continue to vaccinate and try and catch up with backlogs of routine operations. We pray for everyone waiting for surgery or who have had treatments repeatedly delayed. We pray for those studying and working at schools, colleges and universities whether they are settling back into an old routine or establishing new friends and relationships and getting used to new surroundings. Help them all know they are loved and valued.
God of love, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for everyone preparing for the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow later this year. We pray that words will be backed up by real commitments and action. We pray for everyone who has been affected this year by forest fires and flooding alongside the other effects of Climate Change. Particularly at this harvest time, we pray for farmers in the UK and around the world who are facing labour and transport issues, economic difficulties and inclement weather or desertification. We pray you will guide those involved in negotiations to think of those future generations whose fates we hold in our hands and not their own political or economic interests.

God of love, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for anyone who is sick in body, mind or spirit. Heal and comfort those who are sick and strengthen those that care for them. Make your love known to those who feel helpless or lost in this crisis, especially those still furloughed and facing an uncertain future.

God of love, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have died recently or at this time of year and those who grieve for them. Particularly we remember Kaius Malloy and Violet Spence whose funerals will be held at All Saints soon.

God of love, **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God,

**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: Wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality. (James 3:17)

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Sing of the Lord's goodness](#)

1. Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,
faithful to the end of days.

*Come then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.*

2. Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.

3. Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,
splendour of the living God.

4. Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp;
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days.

(words: Ernest Sands;

music: Ernest Sands & Christopher Walker, arr Paul Inwood)

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER *In Church we give thanks for Loveta Campbell on her anniversary, praying for John and his family.*

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.**

God of good fruits, it is right to give you thanks and praise, because you place your life in our hands, that we may share it and enjoy it. In your Son Jesus you set a little child among us and embodied your promises to your chosen people. In his betrayal and crucifixion we see the cost of your entrusting your very self to us; and the still-scarred hands of his resurrection reveal how deep and irresistible is your love. In his ascension on high we rejoice to see him raised up to glory and seated at your right hand. And so we join with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your eternal glory.

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)

Wisdom from above, despite all we have done to you, still in this holy meal when we stretch out our hands you fill them with your life and love. Send your Spirit upon your people, that hands which have received such precious things may be made holy in faith and service. By that same Spirit, sanctify 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."

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Joy-giving God, make your people worthy of your trust. Open our hearts to the poor and stretch out our hands to the needy. Open our mouths with gentleness born of wisdom and put the teaching of kindness on our tongues. Give us a share in the fruits of your hands, that all the world may praise the wonders of your grace. Give your church the trust and confidence to be the last of all and servant of all; until that day when you welcome the last to be the first and draw your children with all creation near to your heart, making all things new, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you. Eat in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

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*

1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2. We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster –
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4. God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

(words: Shirley Erena Murray; music: Tony Alonso)

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 [Will you come and follow me](#)

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know, and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind, and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer in you, and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free, and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you, and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside, and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound in you, and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you, and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

(words: John L Bell & Graham Maule; music: Traditional Scottish melody, arr The Iona Community)

THE BLESSING

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

Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always.

Amen.

(James 3:13)

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

All: In the name of Christ, Amen.

VOLUNTARY



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