



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

Holy Communion

Easter V, Sunday 2nd May 2021

We gather

At Church, face coverings are worn during the service, except when leading, reading and receiving communion. We are not able to mingle inside after the service, nor have congregational singing.

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.

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

We acclaim:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

HYMN [Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise](#)

1. Alleluia, alleluia,
hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

2. Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

3. Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heav'nly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

4. Alleluia, alleluia,
glory be to God on high;
alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
alleluia, alleluia,
to the Triune Majesty.

(words: Christopher Wordsworth; music: Arthur Seymour Sullivan)

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 the Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

St John says: This is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another. With call to mind the ways in which we have (1 John 3:23)

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 declared:*

[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.**

THE COLLECT for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READING [Acts 8:26-end](#) (click [here](#) for text; readings from Gill & John Parkin)

READING [1 John 4:7-end](#) (click [here](#) for text)

HYMN [You are the Vine](#)

You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in you.
You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in you.

Then we'll grow in your love,
then we'll go in your name,
that the world will surely know
that you have power to heal and to save.

(words & music: Danny Daniels & Randy Rigby)

GOSPEL READING [John 15:1-8](#) (click [here](#) for text)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

SERMON – *For those at home, David offers this short reflection:*

Sunday by Sunday this season we watch the Church in Acts extend her reach, gain her confidence and discover her gifts. Chapter 8 is an astonishing sequence leaving us breathless with fear and joy. With fear and joy the women had run from the empty tomb. Now, the men having caught their wonder, in Chapter 7 we see Stephen, murdered with Saul's approval from the sidelines. While devout friends bury him with loud lamentation, this event energises Saul to persecute the Church. Philip meanwhile preaches in Samaria, while Peter and John ministered in Jerusalem. Somewhat surprised to hear of the positive response to Philip's adventurous ministry, they go and pray for the new followers of Jesus. They preach to crowds, they pray for little groups and they minister to individuals with careful attention. Then Philip finds himself alongside a high ranking official from North East Africa and reflects with him, who is eager to be baptised. This is followed by the conversion of Saul and the church's brave welcome to their chief persecutor.

The apostles are learning on their feet, opportunistic in a good way, generous and clearly expectant of enormous diversity. They address the authorities, a national leader, a religious fanatic, a disabled person, a man troubled in mental health, and groups of ordinary citizens from Jerusalem to Samaria with the same accent, the same kind of attention, the same expectation that they can enjoy knowing Jesus of Nazareth and through him, find their place at ease in the company of God.

The Gospels and Acts show us that the women and men of Jesus' fellowship each find their own pace of learning and shape their own ministry, some travelling around, some staying put. As we emerge from lockdown with fear and joy, each at our own pace, the Church is emerging humbled by the sharing of the imposed fast of world wide pandemic, her confidence curiously renewed. We are set up, in the Church of England, to stay put in every neighbourhood, and institutionally placed to address national leaders as well as to attend to individual needs in hidden corners of forgotten neighbourhoods. Although tempted to be preoccupied with straining resources, we knew before we had to reshape our ministry somewhat. But now we face a remarkable opportunity to refresh our service and preaching. It is a moment to open our hearts afresh to the Spirit's prompting to stay and to move, to be generously opportunistic in serving all kinds of people with the same accent of love. There is plenty to speak boldly about to the powers that be, but with renewed expectation that people of power have vulnerabilities and *could* be faithful. We are good at staying put, but maybe can also find ourselves renewed in more agile, fluid ministries that can react impulsively to need.

There will be grief and loss along the way. As with those burying Stephen, we offer our communities language for lament as well as Easter joy. But the Church's expectation is of heaven's peace. If you want to catch the early church's vivacity, settle down with Acts, a glass of wine, perhaps by an open door where you can feel the spring breeze, and read with an open heart. As you are caught up in its energy, notice that not a single weapon is carried by one of Jesus' followers. Every impulse, every movement, every word is for the healing of others. Could we live so in 2021?

We affirm our faith

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 John Parkin

There is a bidding and response for these intercessions

After I say, ' Lord, as you abide in us 'you respond with 'may we abide in you'.

Lord, as you abide in us, **may we abide in you**

We pray for the Church, that it may be caring, loving, and accepting of diversity of every sort.

We ask that in its outreach, the Church may connect with people from every community, showing your love in action.

We pray for our Muslim neighbours, keeping Ramadan under restrictions.

Lord, as you abide in us, **may we abide in you**

We express our sorrow for all who have been denied freedom or peace.

We pray for places where communities have been destroyed, where families have been damaged by war or conflict.

We hold in our hearts all who work to heal divisions, especially this week we pray for countries like India, ravaged by the pandemic.

Lord, as you abide in us, **may we abide in you**

We give thanks for places where people are free to think, exercise their talents and take what action they feel is necessary without hindrance.

We give thanks for people who are enriching the world with their gifts in any creative field.

We remember our own families and friends, some of whom we have not seen or met for a long time

Lord, as you abide in us, **may we abide in you**

We pray for all whose lives bear the scars of their past, those who hold negative memories, those who are weary of life or worn out by lives of service.

We ask that they be renewed and refreshed by your Spirit.

We pray for those who are in any way unwell, remembering especially Maddy Hems and Iain Galloway

Lord, as you abide in us, **may we abide in you**

Lord of Life and Love we remember before you all who have given lives of service in bringing forward the kingdom of Justice and Peace. We pray for all those we have loved and lost, remembering Claudice Forde and her family, and Ian Slee.

Lord, as you abide in us, **may we abide in you**

Merciful Father.....

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.

The risen Lord came and stood among his disciples and said "peace be with you," and they were glad when they saw the Lord.

We say to one another:

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

MUSIC (in church) Dance of the Blessed Spirits (*from 'Orpheus and Eurydice' by Gluck*)

HYMN (recording) [I, the Lord of sea and sky](#)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

(words & music: Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 6)

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 salvation

Taking the bread and wine, the Priest says:

Be present, be present Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest; make yourself know in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

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.

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:

**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.**

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.

**All: Great the mystery of faith:
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

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.**

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

Priest: The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

Please keep distance from one another as you move around. Of course, we can remove our mask to receive.

ANTHEM *during Communion*

[Now the green blade riseth](#)

1. Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.
2. In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.
3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

*(words: John Macleod Campbell Crum alt;
music: Traditional French melody, arr Christopher Tambling)*

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.

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

THE BLESSING

God who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give *us* joy and peace in *our* faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with *us* this Eastertide and always. **Amen.**

HYMN [Love divine, all loves excelling](#)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
3. Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

(words: Charles Wesley alt; music: John Stainer)

We acclaim:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

VOLUNTARY [Badinerie from Suite No 2](#) *(by J S Bach, played by Sarah Bertram)*



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