



Welcome to St Mary's this morning.  
Our service is being live-streamed via Zoom today  
while we remain in lockdown.



**A Service of the Word**  
**The Feast of Christ the King**  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

**[Zoom](#)**

Meeting ID: 819 2951 8947; Passcode: 965502

### **Keeping in Touch with St Mary's**

Simon Butler, Vicar: [vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk)

Aaron Kennedy, Associate Vicar: [aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto:aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk)

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### **Giving to St Mary's**

If you are able to give even while in lockdown we would be very grateful.

Setting up Standing Order makes it really easy.

### **Our Bank Details are:**

Battersea Parish Church PCC, Sort Code 502101, Account Number: 82127468

### ***Copyright Information for Hymns & Songs:***

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*Leader & Preacher: Reverend Aaron Kennedy*

*Director of Music: Mrs Katy Silverman*

*A quiet voluntary is played as we gather for worship. We prepare ourselves.*

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**and also with you.**

### **Hymn**

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King.  
Your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

2. Jesus the Saviour, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above:  
*Lift up your heart...*

3. His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given:  
*Lift up your heart...*

4. He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet:  
*Lift up your heart..*

*Charles Wesley (1701-1788)*

## Opening Prayer

**God our Father, we give thanks  
That you raised your Son from death to life,  
And exalted him to your throne in glory.  
Send the Holy Spirit  
That we may worship him as our Lord,  
And serve him as our King,  
For Jesus' sake. Amen**

## Confession

*We take a minute to reflect on the troubles in our community which we, like Nehemiah, must take a share of responsibility for.*

Come, Holy Spirit of God  
**and search our hearts with the light of Christ.**

When Nehemiah heard of the trouble and shame, the destruction and injustice in Jerusalem, he sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

And he said, 'O LORD God of heaven, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May God our Father forgive you your sins  
and bring you to the eternal joy of his kingdom,  
where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem  
all music but its own. [drowns  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends their burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

## Collect

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Word of God in Scripture

### First Reading: Nehemiah 2: 1-6, 8, 11, 13, 17-20

A reading from the book of the Nehemiah

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served to him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. <sup>2</sup> So the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.' Then I was very much afraid. <sup>3</sup> I said to the king, 'May the king live for ever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?' <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it.' <sup>8</sup> And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

<sup>11</sup> So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days. <sup>13</sup> I went out by night by the Valley Gate past the Dragon's Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

<sup>17</sup> Then I said to them [the officials], 'You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burnt. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.' <sup>18</sup> I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, 'Let us start building!' So they committed themselves to the common good. <sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us, saying, 'What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?' <sup>20</sup> Then I replied to them, 'The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building; but you have no share or claim or historic right in Jerusalem.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

2. Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

*Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)*

### **Second Reading: Nehemiah 5: 1-13**

A reading from the book of the Nehemiah

Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish kin. <sup>2</sup>For there were those who said, 'With our sons and our daughters, we are many; we must get grain, so that we may eat and stay alive.' <sup>3</sup>There were also those who said, 'We are having to pledge our fields, our vineyards, and our houses in order to get grain during the famine.' <sup>4</sup>And there were those who said, 'We are having to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay the king's tax.' <sup>5</sup>Now our flesh is the same as that of our kindred; our children are the same as their children; and yet we are forcing our sons and daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been ravished; we are powerless, and our fields and vineyards now belong to others.'

<sup>6</sup>I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these complaints. <sup>7</sup>After thinking it over, I brought charges against the nobles and the officials; I said to them, 'You are all taking interest from your own people.' And I called a great assembly to deal with them, <sup>8</sup>and said to them, 'As far as we were able, we have bought back our Jewish kindred who had been sold to other nations; but now you are selling your own kin, who must then be bought back by us!' They were silent, and could not find a word to say. <sup>9</sup>So I said, 'The thing that you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God, to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?' <sup>10</sup>Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us stop this taking of interest. <sup>11</sup>Restore to them, this very day, their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the interest on money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.' <sup>12</sup>Then they said, 'We will restore everything and

demand nothing more from them. We will do as you say.’<sup>13</sup> And all the assembly said, ‘Amen’, and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

## Sermon

Reverend Aaron Kennedy

*We keep a few moments of silence after the sermon*

*We enter breakout rooms for five minutes asking each other  
“What is putting pressure on you and those you love?”*

## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God  
whose love is the source of all life  
and the desire of our lives,  
whose love was given a human face  
in Jesus of Nazareth,  
whose love was crucified by the evil  
that awaits to enslave us all  
and whose love, defeating deathless,  
holds a promise of freedom.  
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful  
and full of doubt, in God we trust;  
and in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,  
to seek justice and to live in peace,  
to care for the Earth and to share the commonwealth  
of God’s goodness,  
to live in the freedom of forgiveness  
and the power of the spirit of love,  
and in the company of the faithful,  
wherever found. Amen.**

*The Iona Community*

## Intercessions

God of transformation, Nehemiah was well-off and comfortable, but you called him to open his heart to the suffering of others, and to step into a greater purpose through service. Give those of us who are comfortable and well-off the grace to feel with others who suffer and allow ourselves to be moved into action.

**Move us from our comfort, God of transformation, and send us out into your service.**

God of compassion, Nehemiah was far removed from Jerusalem and its troubles, and yet he took a share of responsibility for it. Give us who see the suffering of others the knowledge that we are all children of the same heavenly Father, and that we are responsible for one another.

**We repent, with others in our community, for sins committed against the dignity of all your children.**

God of hope, Jerusalem's walls were broken down, its gates lay in ruins, and its people were abused. Give those of us who have lost our sovereignty, who feel ourselves to be oppressed, out of control, discouraged and weak, the strength to recover our dignity and rebuild our community.

**We cry out to you, God of all strength, for light in the darkness and hope amidst despair.**

Creator God, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, help us to build relationships with those in positions power, so that together we can work for the common good of all, and see the changes we long to see.

**Give us wisdom to build relationships with the powerful, courage to negotiate for change, and boldness to speak the truth in love.**

Father of all, Nehemiah did not swoop in alone with money and power and force the changes he wanted. He first of all listened to the people and their suffering, and then worked together with them and their leaders to bring about your justice. Give us wisdom to listen to our community, and grace to form partnerships with others who serve the common good, to bring about lasting and relevant change that all can own and take pride in.

**Precious God, in whose image all are made, help us to work together with the whole body of Christ, and so honour and respect each member, and enrich the whole.**

*At the end, we say:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Peace

To crown all things there must be love,  
to bind all together and complete the whole.  
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*We greet one another saying 'Peace be with you.'*

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Hymn

The kingdom of God Is justice and joy,  
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy;  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,  
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,  
The lepers are cleansed, the sinners find place,  
The outcast are welcomed, God's banquet to share,  
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,  
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,  
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,  
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,  
And all things cry glory to God all in all!

*Bryn Rees (1911-1983) © Alexander Scott*

## We are Sent forth in Mission

*News and notices are shared.*

### Blessing & Dismissal

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,  
that you may reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### Hymn

1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King,  
Lord of heav'n, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, th'eternal name.*

2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Pow'r and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:  
*Yours the glory...*

3. Suff'ring servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:  
*Yours the glory...*

4. Priestly King, enthroned for ever  
high in heav'n above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love!  
*Yours the glory...*

5. So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:  
*Yours the glory...*

*Michael Saward (b. 1932) ©Michael Saward/Jubilate Hymns*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Worship & Prayer

*All Services are broadcast live on our Facebook Page and available to view throughout the day at a convenient time for you ([facebook.com/stmarysbattersea](https://facebook.com/stmarysbattersea)).*

*Please note: after a false alarm a few weeks ago, Gabriel Kennedy is having to self-isolate after exposure to Covid-19. Aaron & Grace are juggling childcare and Aaron will be most easily reached at home.*

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November *Canon Simon Butler at General Synod until Wednesday*  
Morning Prayer at 8.30am

Glass Door Coordinators Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November Holy Communion at 8.30am

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November Lectio Divina at 8.30am\*

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November Midday Prayer at Noon

Action Learning Community Gathering at 7.30pm

### Next Sunday – The First Sunday of Advent (Year B Begins)

**8.30am Holy Communion (Traditional Language) on Facebook Live**

**11.00am A Service of the Word on Zoom**

[Zoom](#)

**Meeting ID: 819 2951 8947; Passcode: 965502**

\*You can take part in the new Wednesday Morning Lectio Divina on Zoom

Meeting ID: 815 2706 3986; Password: 259290

Lectio Divina is a traditional way of prayerfully listening to the words of Scripture

A small group continue to say Morning Prayer together on Zoom at 7.30am and welcome others to join them. Contact: [jenny.scott.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.scott.thompson@gmail.com)

### Our Lockdown Prayer Project

**Our Lockdown Prayer Project:** Prayer is at the heart of faith and many of us may well have a particularly important or significant prayer that is close to our hearts. We would like to invite you to share those with the rest of the congregation through our Facebook page. All you need to do is to email Simon our Vicar your favourite prayer, together with a few sentences of why your chosen is important to you, and day by day we will post them on the Facebook site, to give us each access to a daily prayer we can say. Alternatively, you might wish to write a prayer to share with us. It would be lovely if we could encourage one another in this way, and we warmly invite you to start sending Simon favourite prayers to [vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk) (ideally with a photograph if you are happy) and we continue to post them.

## For Your Prayers

**The sick and those in need:** Mary Paton, Lloyd & Hubert Maxwell, Lester Hillman, Charlotte Elliott, Rohini, Robert Law, Jilly Warom and Simon Letcher

**The recently departed and their families:** Sheila Eden, Richard Lewis, Rachael Floyd and Claudia Hanson

## This Week's Notices



**Announcing A Christmas Fayre  
18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
St Mary's Churchyard**



**We are moving forward with an exciting – and daunting – plan to put on a Christmas Fayre in the Churchyard just before Christmas. There is a lot to do – and it does depend on the Covid-19 situation improving – but we are excited about giving people a chance to safely gather and enjoy a community event.**

**Look out for ways to get involved**

## This Week's Notices

**Regenerate**, the Charity which works with disadvantaged young people, have returned to St Mary's Churchyard with their new orange coffee cart, serving hot drinks and light refreshments.

**Glass Door Winter Night Shelter Update:** After some Covid-related back and forth, we have now been asked and agreed to host the night shelter on **Friday evenings at St Barnabas Church, Clapham Common**, for the second half of the winter season, i.e. from January to Easter. You can still volunteer at <https://bit.ly/3cHsoC5>. Further details next month.

**Glass Door Sleep Out:** Well done to the team who slept out (or in) last month in miserable weather. They raised – thanks to your generosity - £2,403.

**2-Bedroom Flat in Winfield House to Let:** If you might be interested in renting it, contact Chesterton's Estate agent (020 7924 4400).

**Website Redesign:** The parish website is currently being redesigned and improved. If you have any photographs of the church or any activities within or around it that might be an attractive addition to the website, please email them to Simon in the coming week. We hope the new website will be ready for Christmas.

**Helping Duane:** Duane is a young man who is helping us with practical jobs around the church and churchyard. Sadly he had his bike stolen last week. If you have a bike you no longer need, please could you let David know in the office: Duane doesn't have the funds to buy a new one for himself.

**From Issabella, Mackenzie, Amelia and Kaeden Patel:** Hi there, we are young members of the congregation work together to raise awareness and fundraise for children in need of healthy, nutritious lunches around the world. We organize community-based activities and fundraisers to support our mission. Please support our **3rd Annual Advent Calendar Fundraiser**. We are raising funds for our 2021 project in partnership with a girls and women's empowerment project and charity in Togo, Africa. Food is a large struggle for families in Togo, Africa with 365,000 people suffering from acute malnutrition and more than 60% of the population in extreme poverty. In our research we have identified that ending hunger can begin with empowering girls and women in regions suffering from poverty.

LAST ORDER BY 5PM FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

Advent Calendars are £5.00 each

Delivered to St Mary's Battersea Church on Sunday 29th November

Ready for pick up on Monday 1st December

ORDER ON OUR WEBSITE [www.giveafreelunch.com](http://www.giveafreelunch.com)