

All Saints Parish Church, Kings Heath
First Sunday of Christmas
31st December 2017

Services this Week: First Sunday of Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion

Morning Prayer: NO MORNING PRAYER

Wednesday: NO HOLY COMMUNION

Services next Week: First Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All age Worship

6.30pm Evening Prayer

COLLECT :

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61: 10- 62, 3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like

a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Galatians 4: 4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 15-21

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to

praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home; help your Church live as one family united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

WE PRAY:

- we remember before God those who are ill Huxley Brennan, Lovetta Campbell, Val Hems, Kathryn Steventon, Helen Ross and those for whom we regularly pray Jannette Cunningham-Green, Teresa, Clare Moody, Dereck Brown and Betty Tilley
 - we remember those who have died and in our Year's Mind Elsie Smith, Alice Morgan, Ada Foster, Ewart Smallwood, Clara Tait, Arthur Leary, Herbert Mace, Alfred Moore, Jean Meacham, Simone Kirkham, Phyllis Leary, Arthur Horton, Olwen Aldridge, Richard Amphlett and Lucy Castle