



BELFAST  
CATHEDRAL

**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER  
FOR USE AT HOME  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
(Mothering Sunday)**

**HYMN:**

**Drop, drop, slow tears,  
and bath those beauteous feet,  
which brought from heaven  
the news and Prince of Peace.**

**Cease not, wet eyes,  
his mercies to entreat;  
to cry for vengeance  
sin doth never cease.**

**In your deep floods  
drown all my faults and fears;  
not let his eye see sin,  
but through my tears.**

*Words: Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)*

*Tune: SONG 46 Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

**OPENING RESPONSES:**

O Lord, open thou our lips  
**and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

**PSALM: 109:1-4, 20-30**

Hold not thy tongue, O God of my praise:

for the mouth of the ungodly, yea, the mouth of the deceitful is opened  
upon me.

And they have spoken against me with false tongues:

they compassed me about also with words of hatred, and fought against  
me without a cause.

For the love that I had unto them, lo, they take now my contrary part:

but I give myself unto prayer.

Thus have they rewarded me evil for good:

and hatred for my good will.

But deal thou with me, O Lord God, according unto thy Name:

for sweet is thy mercy.

O deliver me, for I am helpless and poor:  
and my heart is wounded within me.  
I go hence like the shadow that departeth:  
and am driven away as the grasshopper.  
My knees are weak through fasting:  
my flesh is dried up for want of fatness.  
I became also a reproach unto them:  
they that looked upon me shook their heads.  
Help me, O Lord my God:  
O save me according to thy mercy;  
And they shall know, how that this is thy hand:  
and that thou, Lord, hast done it.  
Though they curse, yet bless thou:  
and let them be confounded that rise up against me; but let thy servant  
rejoice.  
Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame:  
and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a cloke.  
As for me, I will give great thanks unto the Lord with my mouth:  
and praise him among the multitude;  
For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor:  
to save his soul from unrighteous judges.

Glory be to the Father:  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

#### **FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

#### **THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:**

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,  
'Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.'

**THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

**THE APOSTLES' CREED:**

**I believe in God  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And 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, dead, and buried.**

**He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy Spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon 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. Amen.**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us  
**and grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen  
**and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness  
**and make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people  
**and bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,  
**because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us  
**and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

#### **COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **LENTEN COLLECT:**

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting

our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **COLLECT FOR PEACE:**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

#### **COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS:**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in thy home at Nazareth didst love and honour thy blessed mother, and wast subject unto her: grant that we may ever be mindful of her grace and virtue, and also may follow the example of her love and humility; to the glory of thy name, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, our homes, and drive from them all the snares of the evil one; let thy holy angels dwell in them to preserve all who live there in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving Lord Jesus, who, in thy earthly ministry, healed the sickness of body and of mind. Bless, we pray, all who are continuing thy work in clinics, hospitals and in the community, here and throughout the world at this time of global pandemic. Grant inspiration to those researching ways to combat the disease. Give patience and sympathy to doctors and health visitors as they listen to patients and advise them. Give endurance, compassion and protection from infection to nurses and to all who care for the sick and who follow in thy steps, O Christ our Healer and Redeemer.

We thank thee, Lord, for the Bible: for its ability to give us each day new vision and power; for its capacity to reach to the roots of inner life and to refresh them; for its authority to enter mind and spirit and fashion them anew; for its power to beget new life and to sustain it For all this, and for new opportunities to engage with it in our private devotions at his time, we give thee our thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be thou, O Lord, our shield and defence as we travel along the perplexing path of life, with its many difficulties and dangers. So guide and protect us here on earth that we find eternal rest when our journey is finished and our work is done; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

#### **THE GRACE**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

#### **HYMN:**

**Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure,  
cleansing me from its guilt and power.**

**Not the labours of my hands  
can fulfil thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears for ever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the Cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me Saviour, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when my eyelids close in death,  
when I soar through tracts unknown,  
see thee on thy judgement throne;  
Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hid myself in thee.**

*Words: Augustus M. Toplady (1740-78) based on Exodus 33:21-23*

*Tune: PETRA (PEDHEAD NO. 76) Richard Redhead (1820-1901) using the shape of a Spanish Tantum ergo*

#### **THE BLESSING**

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

#### **THE CLOSING RESPONSES**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Belfast Cathedral Closure**

We regret that, due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, we will be open Sunday to Friday 11am-3pm as a place of private prayer and reflection. Appropriately spaced seating will facilitate social distancing.

Please continue to watch the website for up to date news and online prayer resources.

*Daily prayers relating to the Covid-19 outbreak from the Corrymeela Community can be found on the following webpage:*

[https://www.corrymeela.org/news/180/prayers-for-community-in-a?fbclid=IwAR3lLx4ZCuZEm-cFkOs3vX-5m\\_67QszusdrVgxRHHL2n9DOquegAhIRdWdo](https://www.corrymeela.org/news/180/prayers-for-community-in-a?fbclid=IwAR3lLx4ZCuZEm-cFkOs3vX-5m_67QszusdrVgxRHHL2n9DOquegAhIRdWdo)

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