



BELFAST CATHEDRAL

A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

FOR USE AT HOME

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 22nd March 2020



HYMN:

**Sing of Eve and sing of Adam,
children in the dawn of earth,
who with dust and death within them,
yet by God were given birth.
Side by side they named creation,
both from Eden's peace were hurled,
living in their pain and passion
all the story of the world.**

**Sing of Abraham and Sarah
who, in leaving home and land,
gave themselves in faithful freedom,
reaching out for Yahweh's hand.
From their love God formed a people,
chosen until time be done,
and among their generations
God would bring to birth a Son.**

**Sing of Mary, sing of Joseph,
keepers of the wondrous boy,
called by God to high vocation,
sharing sorrow, sharing joy,
sharing love, and by that loving
in their home of Nazareth,
forming one whose grace and glory
suffered, died and conquered death.**

**Sing of man and sing of women,
each the other's joy and crown,
male and female both transfigured
in the Lord of life come down.
Called to equal co-relation,
where their gifts, becoming one,
bring to earth a new creation,
and the will of God is done.**

Words: Herbert O'Driscoll (b.1928)

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH Cyril V. Taylor (1907-91)

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set before us. *Daniel 9:9,10*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence is kept.

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; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. 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.

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

THE PROPER PSALM: 127:1-4

Except the Lord build the house:
their labour is but lost that build it.

Except the Lord keep the city:
the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness:

for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Lo, children and the fruit of the womb:
are an heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son;
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 2:1-10

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

THE CANTICLE JUBILATE (*Psalm 100*)

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.
Know that the Lord he is God;
it is he who has made us and we are his, we are his people and the sheep
of his pasture.
Come into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his holy name.
For the Lord is good his loving mercy is for ever;
his faithfulness throughout all generations.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son;
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: John 19:25b-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

THE CANTICLE BENEDICTUS (*The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1: 68-79*)

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel;
who has come to his people and set them free.
The Lord has raised up for us a mighty saviour;
born of the house of his servant David.
Through the holy prophets God promised of old;
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of those who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears;
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hand of our enemies.
Free to worship him without fear;
holy and righteous before him all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation;
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God;
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son;
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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.

HYMN:

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
the love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and, as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian Wren (b.1936)

Tune: ST BOTOLPH Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**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.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF MOTHERING SUNDAY

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: Strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LENTEN COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remissions and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Lord Jesus Christ, who was born of a human mother and made provision for her even while hanging upon the cross: we commend to your mercy the mothers of our nation. May their children be nurtured in your discipline and instruction, and their homes be havens of peace and love, made fragrant with your presence; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever lives and reigns, one God, world without end.

O Heavenly Father, we give thanks that by our baptism we have been made members of your great family the Church; and we pray that we may grow up to be faithful members of that family and learn to love and serve you and others better; for Jesus Christ's sake.

O God, the Father of all, who alone makes us to be of one mind together: at this time of stress and anxiety we ask that you will grant us, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, a full realization of our interdependence, one upon another. Allay all anger, bitterness and selfishness, and deepen in us a sense of truth and compassion in our dealings with one another. Grant us grace to devote ourselves heartily to the common cause, not seeking gain for ourselves, but placing the needs of others above our own

interest, giving much and taking little; that we may all know the joy of service and the discipline of self-denial, for the good of others and the sake of him who died for us, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all doctors and nurses who are called to care for the sick, especially those who suffer from the Coronavirus. Help them always remember that they are fellow-workers with you; and give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those who they serve, and their loved ones. Guard them in their work from contracting the virus themselves, and watch over their families and loved ones in their anxiety for them. We ask this in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ.

HYMN:

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by:
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) based on the Canticle 'Magnificat' (Luke 1:46-55)
Tune: WOODLANDS Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

PRAYER OF BLESSING

May Christ give us grace to grow in holiness, to deny ourselves, and to take up our cross and follow him; and may the blessing of God almighty: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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=IwAR3ILx4ZCuZEm-cFkOs3vX-5m_67QszusdrVgxRHHL2n9DOquegAhIRdWdo

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