



**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 17th May 2020
The Sixth Sunday of Easter:
Rogation Sunday**

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: ICH 29

Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
shown in earth and sky and sea,
burning sun and moonlight tender,
hill and river, flower and tree:
lest we fail our praise to render
touch our eyes that they may see.

Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
mighty waters ebb and flow,
while unhasting, undelaying,
planets on their courses go:
in thy laws thyself displaying,
teach our minds thy truth to know.

Lord of life, alone sustaining
all below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
sun and stars sublimely move:
in our earthly spirits reigning,
lift our hearts that we may love.

Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
Till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
and, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
thou in all art glorified.

Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955)

Tune: RHUDDLAN Welsh traditional melody from E. Jones' Musical Relics of the Welsh Bards (1800)

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: 89

My song shall be alway of the loving kindness of the Lord *
with my mouth will I ever be shewing thy truth from one generation to another.
For I have said, Mercy shall be set up for ever *
thy truth shalt thou stablish in the heavens.
I have made a covenant with my chosen *
I have sworn unto David my servant;
Thy seed will I stablish for ever *
and set up thy throne from one generation to another.
O Lord, the very heavens shall praise thy wondrous works *
and thy truth in the congregation of the saints.
For who is he among the clouds *
that shall be compared unto the Lord?
And what is he among the gods *
that shall be like unto the Lord?

God is very greatly to be feared in the council of the saints *
and to be had in reverence of all them that are round about him.
O Lord God of hosts, who is like unto thee *
thy truth, most mighty Lord, is on every side.
Thou rulest the raging of the sea *
thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise.
Thou hast subdued Egypt, and destroyed it *
thou hast scattered thine enemies abroad with thy mighty arm.
The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine *
thou hast laid the foundation of the round world, and all that therein is.
Thou hast made the north and the south *
Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy Name.
Thou hast a mighty arm *
strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.
Righteousness and equity are the habitation of thy seat *
mercy and truth shall go before thy face.
Blessed is the people, O Lord, that can rejoice in thee *
they shall walk in the light of thy countenance.
Their delight shall be daily in thy Name *
and in thy righteousness shall they make their boast.
For thou art the glory of their strength *
and in thy loving-kindness thou shalt lift up our horns.
For the Lord is our defence *
the Holy One of Israel is our King.
Thou spakest sometime in visions unto thy saints, and saidst *
I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.
I have found David my servant *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
My hand shall hold him fast *
and my arm shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not be able to do him violence *
the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.
I will smite down his foes before his face *
and plague them that hate him.
My truth also and my mercy shall be with him *
and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.
I will set his dominion also in the sea *
and his right hand in the floods.
He shall call me, Thou art my Father *
my God, and my strong salvation.
And I will make him my first-born *
higher than the kings of the earth.
My mercy will I keep for him for evermore *
and my covenant shall stand fast with him.
His seed also will I make to endure for ever *
and his throne as the days of heaven.
But if his children forsake my law *
and walk not in my judgements;
If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments *
I will visit their offences with the rod, and their sin with scourges.
Nevertheless, my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him *
nor suffer my truth to fail.
My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips *
I have sworn once by my holiness, that I will not fail David.

His seed shall endure for ever *
and his seat is like as the sun before me.
He shall stand fast for evermore as the moon *
and as the faithful witness in heaven.
But thou hast abhorred and forsaken thine Anointed *
and art displeased at him.
Thou hast broken the covenant of thy servant *
and cast his crown to the ground.
Thou hast overthrown all his hedges *
and broken down his strong holds.
All they that go by spoil him *
and he is become a reproach to his neighbours.
Thou hast set up the right hand of his enemies *
and made all his adversaries to rejoice.
Thou hast taken away the edge of his sword *
and givest him not victory in the battle.
Thou hast put out his glory *
and cast his throne down to the ground.
The days of his youth hast thou shortened *
and covered him with dishonour.
Lord, how long wilt thou hide thyself, for ever *
and shall thy wrath burn like fire?
O remember how short my time is *
wherefore hast thou made all men for nought?
What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death *
and shall he deliver his soul from the hand of hell?
Lord, where are thy old loving-kindnesses *
which thou swarest unto David in thy truth?
Remember, Lord, the rebuke that thy servants have *
and how I do bear in my bosom the rebukes of many people;
Wherewith thine enemies have blasphemed thee, and slandered the footsteps of thine Anointed *
Praised be the Lord for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

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: Zechariah 8:1-13

The word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath. Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Thus says the LORD of hosts: Let your hands be strong—you that have recently been hearing these words from the mouths of the prophets who were present when the foundation was laid for the rebuilding of the temple, the house of the LORD of hosts. For before those days there were no wages for people or for animals, nor was there any safety from the foe for those who went out or came in, and I set them all against one another. But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the

former days, says the LORD of hosts. For there shall be a sowing of peace; the vine shall yield its fruit, the ground shall give its produce, and the skies shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. Just as you have been a cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you and you shall be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.

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 LESSON: Revelation 21:22-22:5

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

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

O Lord, from whom all good things do come; Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **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

Holy LORD, you alone are unutterable, from the time you created all things that can be spoken of. You alone are unknowable, from the time you created all things that can be known. All things cry out about you; those which speak, and those which cannot speak. All things honour you; those which think, and those which cannot think. For there is one longing, one groaning, that all things have for you. All things pray to you that comprehend your plan and offer you a silent hymn. In you, the One, all things abide, and all things endlessly run to you who are the end of all. Thank you, Lord, that you listen to us.

Gregory of Nazianzus

Christ our life, you are alive in the beauty of the earth, in the rhythm of the seasons, in the mystery of time and space. *Alleluia.*

Christ our life, you are alive in the tenderness of touch, in the heartbeat of intimacy, in the insights of solitude. *Alleluia.*

Christ our life, you are alive in the creative possibility of the dullest conversation, the dreariest task, the most threatening event. *Alleluia.*

Christ our life, you are alive to offer re-creation to every unhealed hurt, to every deadened place, to every damaged heart. *Alleluia.*

You set before us a great choice. Therefore, we choose life. The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation. It sets gifts of bread and wine upon our table. This is grace, dying we live. So let us live.

A prayer by Kathy Galloway of the Iona Community, appropriate for Rogation Sunday

Glory be to God for dappled things-
for skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
for rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
landscape plotted and pieced-fold, fallow, and plough;
and all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows who?)
with swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise Him.

Gerard Manley Hopkins- 'Pied Beauty'

Creator of Earth and of all earth's children, Creator of soil and sea and sky and the tapestries of stars, we turn to you for guidance as we look on our mutilated planet, and pray it is not too late for us to rescue our wounded world. We have been so careless. We have failed to nurture the fragile life you entrusted to our keeping. We beg you for forgiveness and we ask you to begin again. Be with us in our commitment to earth. Let all the earth say: Amen.

Miriam Therese Winter

You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, want us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do.

So, thank you for the waiting time.

You keep us looking. You, the God of all space, want us to look in the right and wrong places for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless, for visions of a better world which will appear among the disappointments of the world we know.

So, thank you for the looking time.

You keep us loving. You, the God whose name is love, want us to be like you- to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unlovable; to love without jealousy or design or threat; and, most difficult of all, to love ourselves.

So, thank you for the loving time.

And in all this, you keep us. Through hard questions with no easy answers; through failing where we hoped to succeed and making an impact when we felt we were useless; through the patience and the dreams and the love of others, and through Jesus Christ and his Spirit, you keep us.

So, thank you for the keeping time.

And for now,

and for ever.

A prayer by John Bell of the Iona Community, appropriate for lockdown

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: ICH 350

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:

*Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the wonder of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of thine,
To the world so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

For thy Church for evermore
Lifting holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love:

Words: F.S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Tune: ENGLAND'S LANE David Evans (1874-1948)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

May 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 the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE EASTERTIDE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or
our Facebook Page “Belfast Cathedral” for up to date news and online prayer resources.