



Depiction of Pentecost in the East Window in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Belfast Cathedral

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

The Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. *Romans 5:5*

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love. We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord. And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him. *1 Corinthians 2.9,10*

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.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; 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.

PSALM: 104:26-36, 37b

O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦

and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦

which you have made to play in the deep.

All of these look to you ♦

to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it; ♦

you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled; ♦

when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, ♦

and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ♦

may the Lord rejoice in his works;

He looks on the earth and it trembles; ♦

he touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; ♦

I will make music to my God while I have my being.

So shall my song please him ♦

while I rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Alleluia.

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 READING: Acts 2:1-17, 21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

CANTICLE: Te Deum Laudamus *Part 1*

**We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as the Lord;
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless
praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you;
the noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you;
throughout the world, the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

SECOND READING: John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

REFLECTION by Mrs Gillian McGaughey, Diocesan Reader

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.

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, 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, and the power and the glory, for ever and 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 THE DAY

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: By the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; 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

In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Guide the Church, blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, to preach the gospel to all nations. Bless Church leaders, that they may know guidance and inspiration from you. We pray especially for David, bishop of Down and Dromore, and George, bishop-designate of Connor. Give to your people words of power, words of comfort, words of life. Bless your ministers and all who preach the way of salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, who has spoken to the world to be heard and praised in many tongues, speak now to a world troubled by divisions and failures to understand, that we may together grow in humility and generosity of spirit. Break down the barriers that hold people apart, so that your wonderful works shall be known. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May we be granted a share in the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on the Apostles, to guide us in sharing the good news with our families and neighbours and all whose lives touch our own. Bless the communities in which we live, and grant that we may be good neighbours in this difficult time. Inspire us with the breath of life and the fire of love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on all whose lives are so limited by poverty, suffering or ignorance that they do not know the fullness of life that is your will for them. May the Holy Spirit come to them to be their Comforter and lead them into light. Bless the work of relief agencies and mission organisations in striving to provide means of improvement, growth and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those whose lives were led by the Spirit of God, especially those dear to us, who are now at rest. May they, and we in our time, rest in peace, rise in glory and share in the glorious inheritance of the saints in light.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

A PRAYER FOR CARE WORKERS:

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all medics and hospital personnel who are called to care for the sick, especially those suffering from the Coronavirus. Give your strength to all who work in Nursing homes, and all who attend those in need of care in the community. Protect all who work in essential shops, businesses and supply companies. Help each to remember that they are fellow-workers with you; Give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those they serve. Guard them in their work from themselves contracting the virus, 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. **Amen.**

A COMMISSION

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us. As part of God's Church, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

By the Spirit's power, I will.

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

I will.

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

I will.

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

I will.

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

I will.

THE PENTECOST BLESSING

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the words and works of God: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE PENTECOST DISMISSAL

Filled with the Spirit's power, go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

ICH: 294

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path
illuminating.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434), tr. R.F. Littledale (1833-90)
Tune: DOWN AMPNEY R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

ICH: 299

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us
in the truth that Christ makes known;
we have faith and understanding
through your helping gifts alone.

Holy Spirit, come, console us,
come as advocate to plead,
loving Spirit from the father,
grant in Christ the help we need.

Holy Spirit, come, renew us,
come yourself to make us live,
holy through your loving presence,
holy through the gifts you give.

Holy Spirit, come, possess us,
you the love of Three in One,
Holy Spirit of the Father,
Holy Spirit of the Son.

Words: Brian Foley (1919-2000) based on John 14:25-27; 16:12-15
Tune: ALL FOR JESUS John Stainer (1840-1901) from The Crucifixion

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.