



BELFAST
CATHEDRAL

A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
Sunday 14th June 2020
The First Sunday after Trinity

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Jesus said: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.' *Acts 1:8*

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.

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: 116:1, 10-17

I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦
because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.

How shall I repay the Lord ♦
for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation ♦
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord ♦
is the death of his faithful servants.

O Lord, I am your servant, ♦
your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving ♦
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord, ♦
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. 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: Genesis 18:1-15

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

CANTICLE: Te Deum Part 3

**Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance:
govern and uphold them now and always.**

**Day by day we bless you;
we praise your name for ever.**

**Keep us today, Lord, from all sin:
have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, show us your love and mercy,
for we put our trust in you.**

**In you, Lord, is our hope,
let us never be put to shame.**

SECOND READING: Matthew 9:35-10:8

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.'

REFLECTION *by the Dean*

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

God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; 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

Let us pray with confidence to God, who has called us into service.

As we have been called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, Lord help us be worthy of our calling. Grant humility, grace, compassion and goodness to all who claim you as their God, and especially to those who are pastors of your flock in these times of challenge. Inspire us to proclaim the good news of your Kingdom and bring comfort to the needy, seeking no reward but giving thanks for the grace we have received.

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

Great Shepherd, look with compassion on the peoples of the world who lack purpose and direction, all who live in fear, oppression or degradation. Have mercy on those who have been scattered by war, persecution, poverty or disease and lead them into the secure fold of your love.

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

We pray for the spirit of mission, the power to speak of the faith that is in us and to show it in our lives. Help us cultivate tolerance, kindness and patience in our relationships, especially for all who are living close together in Lockdown. Protect all who are vulnerable or at risk of harm. Open our eyes to see where the harvest of service is ripe in our local communities. Bless those who minister to the needing and the homeless, and those who are adapting to teach in new ways in schools, universities and colleges.

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

We pray for those who are troubled in spirit, mind or body. We pray for people of colour and from other communities who have been marginalised or abused through history. May all who work to heal or to help others reclaim fullness of life be given the compassion and the power that led the first disciples to fulfil the command of their Lord. We pray at this time for all who are training in the fields of medicine and nursing care.

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

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for those whose harvest has been gathered in and now see their Shepherd face to face in glory. We pray especially those dear to us, and those who have grieved alone these weeks. We give thanks that, free from all that can harm them, they have entered the Kingdom of Heaven. Help us to continue in faithfulness that we may come in time to share with them in the fullness of eternal life.

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

We pray in the name of Christ who has compassion on his wandering sheep.

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

A PRAYER FOR KEY WORKERS:

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless who are called to care for the sick, especially those suffering from or recovering from Coronavirus. Give your strength to all who work in Nursing homes, and all who give care in the community. Protect all who are returning to work in shops, businesses and schools. Help each to 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 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.**

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your 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 with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or
our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/>)
for this morning's online Cathedral Service
and for up to date news and online prayer resources.

HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

ICH 634

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) based on Matthew 3:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17

Tune: BLAENWERN William P. Rowlands (1860-1937)

ICH 358

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enrol Thee:
E'en eternity's too short
To extol thee.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)

Tune: GWALCHMAI Joseph David Jones (1827-70)