



A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
Sunday 5th July 2020
The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Jesus said: 'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' *Matthew 28:20*

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.

O 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: 45:10-17

Hear, O daughter; consider and incline your ear; ♦
forget your own people and your father's house.

So shall the king have pleasure in your beauty; ♦
he is your lord, so do him honour.

The people of Tyre shall bring you gifts; ♦
the richest of the people shall seek your favour.

The king's daughter is all glorious within; ♦
her clothing is embroidered cloth of gold.

She shall be brought to the king in raiment of needlework; ♦
after her the virgins that are her companions.

With joy and gladness shall they be brought ♦
and enter into the palace of the king.

‘Instead of your fathers you shall have sons, ♦
whom you shall make princes over all the land.

‘I will make your name to be remembered through all generations; ♦
therefore shall the peoples praise you for ever and ever.’

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 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Laban said, ‘I am Abraham’s servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, “You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.”’

‘I came today to the spring, and said, “O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also’—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.”’

‘Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, “Please let me drink.” She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, “Drink, and I will also water your camels.” So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” She said, “The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.” So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.’ And they called Rebekah, and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ She said, ‘I will.’ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

‘May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.’

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, ‘Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?’ The servant said, ‘It is my master.’ So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

CANTICLE: Urbs Fortitudinis (*Isaiah 26:1-4, 7-8*)

We have a strong city:

salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

Open ye the gates:

that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee

because he trusteth in thee.

Trust ye in the Lord for ever:

for our rock of ages is the Lord.

The way of the just is uprightness;

thou that art upright dost direct the path of the just.

Yea in the way of thy judgments O Lord have we waited for thee;

the desire of our soul is to thy Name, and to the remembrance of thee.

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 READING: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowds, 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

REFLECTION

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, 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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Let us pray with confidence to the Father, Lord of heaven and earth.

Bless and strengthen the Church to which the mystery of faith has been revealed. Grant that she may speak the words of comfort to all people, to meet their diversity without losing the integrity of truth. Bless all Church leaders and teachers, especially David, Bishop of Down and Dromore, and George, Bishop-Designate of Connor, Dean Stephen and the Chapter of this cathedral church, and all clergy and readers in the dioceses.

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

Come with healing into the discontent of the world, to take away the suspicion that separates people and sets them against each other. We pray for all troubled areas where tensions between factions run high, remembering our own country during the summer months. We pray for all who hold positions

of leadership, decision making and influence, that they may show respect and integrity in their words and actions to and about those from whom they differ. We pray for the people of Hong Kong, and for all who seek to protest in peaceful ways against injustices or abuses. Teach those who think themselves wise in this world to trust the wisdom of the simple.

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

Make us more gentle and humble in our dealings with others. Help us to learn to disagree with grace and restraint. Give us insight to see the burdens that many in our community are bearing, and generosity to bring relief. In all things teach us patience, kindness and humility.

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

Have mercy on those who are bowed down under heavy loads, weighed by poverty and hunger, by sickness or by the weight of unresolved sins. We pray that you will surround the family circle of Noah Donohoe with love, support and hope during this dark time. Bring them to your side, to find comfort and assurance in your love.

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

We remember with thanksgiving all our beloved departed who have laid down their burdens and found eternal rest, rejoicing that to them all mysteries have been revealed and the fullness of the divine love made known. Grant us inspiration and endurance to follow their example.

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

We offer our prayers in the name of Christ, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.

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, including 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 across the economy. Guard them, and watch over their families and loved ones in their anxiety for them. Protect our community from further waves of infection, we pray, and give wisdom to all who have responsibility for leading this society out of Lockdown. This we ask in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Today marks the 67th anniversary of the Ordination of Canon Kenneth Ruddock as deacon in this cathedral on the first Sunday in July 1953. He was ordained by Bishop King Irwin, along side the late Canon Frank Bell and Stewart Magee. At this time of the year when many clergy of the church celebrate the anniversary of their ordination, we offer this **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING.***

O God of the Church, you have called men and women to offer themselves in ministry and service across the generations, and also in our time. We bless you for those who have given their lives, passion and dedication to build the church wherever it is called to present the gospel and model discipleship after the pattern of Jesus. May they, and we, find power, peace and gladness to continue to walk in the footsteps of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to gather many into God's kingdom. **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 the cathedral will be **open for Private Prayer from 12 noon to 2pm on Sundays and Wednesdays from 5th July to the end of the month.**

(Social distancing and Covid-19 hygiene restrictions will apply)

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.

The morning service is also available on the Belfast Cathedral YouTube Channel
Search for "Belfast Cathedral" on www.youtube.com

You can also listen to the morning service on our Telephone Audio facility.
Please dial: **028 95 320 355** and follow the instructions.

HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

ICH 59

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If, on our daily course, our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
as more of heaven in each we see;
some softening gleam of love and prayer
shall dawn on every cross and care.

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask:
room to deny ourselves; a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

Words: John Keble (1792-1866) based on Lamentations 3:22-23

Tune: MELCOMBE Melody by Samuel Webbe the elder (1740-1816) in his An Essay on the Church Plain Chant (London, 1782)

ICH 618

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther [Joyce Placzek, nee Torrens] (1901-53)
Tune: SLANE Irish traditional melody harm. Erik Routley (1917-82)

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