



**A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**The Sixth 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.**

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.**

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: 139:1-11, 23-24**

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦  
**you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦  
**and are acquainted with all my ways.**

For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦  
**but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

You encompass me behind and before ♦  
**and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦  
**so high that I cannot attain it.**

Where can I go then from your spirit? ♦

**Or where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; ♦

**if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning ♦

**and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand shall lead me, ♦

**your right hand hold me fast.**

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me ♦

**and the light around me turn to night,'**

Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; ♦

**darkness and light to you are both alike.**

Search me out, O God, and know my heart; ♦

**try me and examine my thoughts.**

See if there is any way of wickedness in me ♦

**and lead me in the way everlasting.**

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 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

**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.**

#### **SECOND READING: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'

#### **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**

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ 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 that the Church and the world may be preserved from evil.

Shield the Church against all that would damage her witness: false doctrine, pride, indifference to life that seems to lie outside her care. In these challenging times of sensitivity to contact and contamination, may we never forget our call to love and serve in the name of our Lord. Give your ministers wisdom to discern between good and evil and to guide their people in the right way. We pray for Archbishops John and Michael, for the House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Dr Tom McKnight, and all clergy.

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

Root out corruption in the high places of the world, where power is misused and rights are disregarded. We pray for those who are oppressed, denigrated, ignored or abused, and for the perpetrators of discrimination, that they may be challenged to change. Strengthen and prosper those who work against difficulty to bring a better life for others. Bless world leaders and our own government and Executive in the decisions facing the country and world in response to Covid-19.

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

Help us to seek to perceive and correct the wrong that is in ourselves and to discern and foster what can be used for good. Protect the communities in which we live, work and worship from all evil that threatens their peace, and let all live together in harmony. Watch over the sick, and those who care for them, and grant your peace to the troubled and isolated.

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

Come in mercy to those whose lives have been blighted by misfortune or false judgement, those whose hopes have been unfulfilled, those whose minds are torn by temptation, and those whose lives are blighted by addiction. Bring them back to their place in the good harvest of your love. Be merciful to your servants who have gone astray in this world. Restore in them your image and grant them a new place in your Kingdom of love.

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

We give you thanks for those who, having grown in faith and love through their lives have come to the harvest of death, and the rest of eternity. Help us, who struggle to follow their example, to continue in the same path, and so come in our time to rest and peace.

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

May our prayers be accepted in the name of Christ who has planted us in righteousness.

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 those 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.**

#### **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.**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

#### **THE DISMISSAL**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.*

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## HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

ICH 196

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
and comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy  
prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
for truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and  
fearfulness,  
he will accept for the Name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

*Words: John S.B. Monsell (1811-75)*

*Tune: WAS LEBET, WAS SCHWEBET melody from the Rheinhardt MS (Üttingen, 1754)*

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O God of Bethel, by whose hand  
thy children still are fed;  
who through this earthly pilgrimage  
hast all thy people led;

our vows, our prayers, we now present  
before thy throne of grace;  
God of our fathers, be the God  
of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life  
our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy covering wings around  
till all our wanderings cease,  
and at our Father's loved abode  
our souls arrive in peace.

Such blessings from thy gracious hand  
our humble prayers implore;  
be thou to us, O Lord our God,  
our portion evermore.

*Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-52) based on Genesis 28:10-22*

*Tune: ABRIDGE melody by Isaac Smith (1734-1805)*

### **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 is **open for Private Prayer from 12 noon to 2pm on Sundays and Wednesdays for the month of July.**

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

Please continue to watch the cathedral website ([www.belfastcathedral.org](http://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](http://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.