



**MORNING PRAYER: A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020



**CATHEDRAL FLOWERS PROVIDED THIS SUNDAY BY DR. MARION GIBSON  
IN MEMORY OF HER LATE HUSBAND TOM**

## THE GREETING

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

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.

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: 123

Unto thee lift I up mine eyes \*

**O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

Behold, even as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress \*

**even so our eyes wait upon the Lord Our God, until he have mercy upon us.**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us \*

**for we are utterly despised.**

Our soul is filled with the scornful reproof of the wealthy \*

**and with the despitefulness of the proud.**

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: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**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 25:14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, 'It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** by the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, 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, 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.**

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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.**

## INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray that the gifts of God may be rightly used.

Lord, bless the Church with generosity and care for all. Grant humility and compassion to those who hold positions of leadership, teaching and responsibility, praying for Bishop George, Bishop David and the clergy of the cathedral Chapter. Guide us through these days when the cathedral is closed for services giving grace to your people that they may bring new hope to many and show forth the glory of God.

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

Bring to a world where dealing is often hard and competitive the spirit of compassion, so that those who gain much may share more generously. We pray for all countries and regions struggling with fresh waves of Coronavirus, and all places enduring the additional suffering due to unrest, terrorism or outright war. We pray for the people of the USA amidst a difficult Presidential transition. Give wisdom to the rich to know that all wealth is the gift of God.

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

Help us to value more gratefully the gifts we have been given, to develop and to use them for the good of others. Bless us with honesty, open-mindedness and willingness in our dealings with one another, especially in this challenging time in our national life. Guide with wisdom those who are responsible for the finances of this cathedral community, the city of Belfast, Province and the United Kingdom.

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

Have mercy on the poor who have nothing they can develop to ease their burden, and guide them to ways where they find relief. We pray for all who are struggling with their finances as the result of redundancy, furlough or the restrictions of the present time. We pray for responsible and appropriate financial assistance from government. Bless the work of Foodbanks and all who find themselves making use of them. Raise up from despair those who know they have not fulfilled what they might have done, and open to them again the way they have lost.

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

We remember with thanksgiving those who have completed their task in this world and have entered into the joy of their Master, both those who have influenced many and those who have particularly influenced us. We pray for the newly bereaved, facing restrictions on the funeral arrangements for their loved ones. We offer for your blessing the Lives Reflected website as a ministry of healing. So may we come in our time to share in the peace promised to Christ's faithful servants.

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

We pray as the servants of Christ from whom all good things come. **Amen.**

## A PRAYER DURING THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all who care for the sick, and 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. Continue to protect our communities in this new wave of infection we pray, and give wisdom to all who have responsibility in church and society for leading us forward. This we ask in the name of the one who spent himself in service of others with no thought for himself, even our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF 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.**



## NOTICES



While the cathedral remains closed for 14 days, please make use of the service of Evening Prayer, which can be downloaded from the cathedral website.

### Services Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

#### The Sunday before Advent: The Kingship of Christ

There will be **no public worship** in the cathedral, as it remains closed.

Instead, services will be posted on the website ([www.belfastcathedral.org](http://www.belfastcathedral.org)) and Livestreamed on Facebook [www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral](https://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral)

11.00am Service of the Word Livestreamed  
Evening Prayer Order of Service available on cathedral website for use at home

### Advent and Christmas Carol Services at Belfast Cathedral

Due to Coronavirus Regulations the seating capacity of the cathedral is restricted to 150 people per service in the Nave.

For this reason allocated Seating for those attending the Advent and Christmas Carol Services must be pre-booked by sending an e-mail request to [admin@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:admin@belfastcathedral.org)

Members of the Cathedral Congregation and Cathedral Choir are being given **Priority Booking**.

However you must submit your on-line booking request

**by 4pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.**

After this date, seats will be made available to the general public.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**  
**Advent Carol Service at 6.00pm**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.**  
**Cathedral Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 7.30pm**

This year, due to the restrictions, there will be no Service of Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve.  
However there will be a

**Festival Choral Eucharist for Christmas Morning**  
**at Belfast Cathedral starting at 11.00am.**

Seating for this service will be on a first come, first served basis on the day.

## Hymns suitable for use at home today:

### ICH 346

Angel-voices ever singing  
round thy throne of light,  
angel-harps, forever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless thee  
and confess thee  
Lord of might.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
craftsman's art and music's measure  
for thy pleasure  
all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer,  
all unworthily,  
hearts and minds and hands and voices  
in our choicest  
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
blessèd Trinity.  
Of the best which thou hast given,  
earth and heaven  
render Thee.

*Words: Francis Pott (1832-1909)  
Tune: ANGEL VOICES E.G. Monk (1819-1900)*

### ICH 324

God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!

Saviour, who came to bring  
on your redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind:  
now to all humankind  
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed on your flight!  
Move on the water's face  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light!

Holy and blessèd Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
wisdom, love, might:  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world, far and wide,  
let there be light!

*Words: John Marriott (1780-1825)  
Tune: MOSCOW adpt. from Felice Gardini (1716-96)*