



MORNING PRAYER: A SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT:
THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST
Sunday 22nd November 2020



CHRIST THE KING
AS PORTRAYED IN THE GREAT WEST WINDOW
OF BELFAST CATHEDRAL

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: 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; ♦

serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God; ♦

it is he that has made us and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; ♦

give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, ♦

and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: Te Deum (Part 2)

You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free,
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers
You are seated at God's right hand in glory:
we believe that you will come to be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

SECOND READING: Matthew 25:31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON by the Reverend Janice Elsdon

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

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE 'STIR UP' COLLECT

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that plenteously bearing the fruit of good works they may by you be plenteously rewarded; 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.**

INTERCESSIONS

In joyful acknowledgement of his just and gentle rule we pray to Christ the King, saying,
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Reign in your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for George, bishop of Connor and for David, bishop of Down and Dromore, and for all the parishes in their dioceses. We pray for Hilary, bishop of Yei, with which our own diocese is linked, for its clergy and people as they seek to live under the kingship of Christ in the midst of civil war and violence, hunger and homelessness.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Reign in your world as King of the nations. Before you rulers will stand in silence. Come in power and justice when they elevate themselves above the needs of their people, to put down the mighty from their seats and to exalt the humble and meek as you have promised. May the Leaders of our time exercise their authority with humility and wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Reign in the midst of your people with a rule of love and peace. We pray for rulers and nations struggling to bring the pandemic under control; for scientists continuing to work on the development of anti-viral vaccines; for exhausted and anxious health workers caring for the sick and the dying.

Grant them to see the fruits of their sacrificial work.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Reign in our midst as Saviour and Comforter. We pray for our families and friends in the sharp awareness that this pandemic has separated us from so many of them. Rule in our lives especially where we struggle with sickness and distress, with anxiety and with the temptation to put our own desires ahead of the wellbeing of others. Set us free to love our neighbours as ourselves. In silence we name those from our church community in particular need of healing or grace today.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Rule in our lives, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Help us to live in the light of your Kingship and give us a longing for your kingdom. Lift our eyes to see you and, with all your saints and angels, to live with you for ever.

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.



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



NOTICES



**Under the Executive Restrictions announced on Thursday 19th November
The Cathedral will remain Closed for all events and all Public Worship until Friday 11th
December when the situation will be reviewed by the Executive.**

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

Services Sunday 29th November: Advent Sunday

11.00am Service of the Word for Advent Sunday Livestreamed

**Regrettably the 6.00pm Advent Carol Service has been cancelled due Executive Restrictions
on Public Church Services.**

Christmas Carol Services at Belfast Cathedral

Due to the new restrictions

*we are unable at present to confirm details for this year's Cathedral Carol Services,
planned for 22nd -24th December.*

**Confirmation of Carol Service Times and Booking Arrangements will be posted on the Cathedral
Website and Facebook Pages.**

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

However there will be a

**Festival 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 281

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!*

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) based on Philippians 4:4
Tune: GOPSAL G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

ICH 398

Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia, Bread of Angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

*Words: W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98) based on Acts 1:3-11
Tune: HYFRYDOL Melody by Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955)*