



EVENING PRAYER FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 6th December 2020
The Second Sunday of Advent

OPENING RESPONSES:

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 32

Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven *
and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin *
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For while I held my tongue *
my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night *
and my moisture is like the drought in summer.

I will acknowledge my sin unto thee *
and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord *
and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found *

but in the great water-floods they shall not come nigh him.

Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble *
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go *
and I will guide thee with mine eye.

Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding *
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, lest they fall upon thee.

Great plagues remain for the ungodly *
but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side.

Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord *
and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: I Kings 22:1-28

For three years Aram and Israel continued without war. But in the third year King Jehoshaphat of Judah came down to the king of Israel. The king of Israel said to his servants, 'Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, yet we are doing nothing to take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?' He said

to Jehoshaphat, 'Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?' Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, 'I am as you are; my people are your people, my horses are your horses.'

But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, 'Inquire first for the word of the LORD.' Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred of them, and said to them, 'Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?' They said, 'Go up; for the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.' But Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there no other prophet of the LORD here of whom we may inquire?' The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'There is still one other by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micaiah son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies anything favourable about me, but only disaster.' Jehoshaphat said, 'Let the king not say such a thing.' Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, 'Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imlah.' Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing-floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron, and he said, 'Thus says the LORD: With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.' All the prophets were prophesying the same and saying, 'Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.'

The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, 'Look, the words of the prophets with one accord are favourable to the king; let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favourably.' But Micaiah said, 'As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak.'

When he had come to the king, the king said to him, 'Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?' He answered him, 'Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.' But the king said to him, 'How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?' Then Micaiah said, 'I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep that have no shepherd; and the LORD said, "These have no master; let each one go home in peace."' The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy anything favourable about me, but only disaster?'

Then Micaiah said, 'Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, with all the host of heaven standing beside him to the right and to the left of him. And the LORD said, "Who will entice Ahab, so that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?" Then one said one thing, and another said another, until a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, "I will entice him." "How?" the LORD asked him. He replied, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." Then the LORD said, "You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do it." So you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has decreed disaster for you.'

Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up to Micaiah, slapped him on the cheek, and said, 'Which way did the spirit of the LORD pass from me to speak to you?' Micaiah replied, 'You will find out on that day when you go in to hide in an inner chamber.' The king of Israel then ordered, 'Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son, and say, "Thus says the king: Put this fellow in prison, and feed him on reduced rations of bread and water until I come in peace."' Micaiah said, 'If you return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me.' And he said, 'Hear, you peoples, all of you!'

MAGNIFICAT:

My soul doth magnify the Lord:

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth:

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:

and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name’;

and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

NUNC DIMITTIS:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. **Amen.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in **God the Father** almighty, maker of heaven and earth; **And in Jesus Christ** his only **Son our Lord**; who was conceived by the **Holy Spirit**, born of the **Virgin Mary**, suffered under **Pontius Pilate**, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of **God the Father** almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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 Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

In earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, ○ God.

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

○ Lord, raise up we pray thee thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, world without end.
Amen.

THE ADVENT COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

You are our eternal salvation, the unfailing life of the world.
Light everlasting, you are truly our redemption.

Grieving that the human race was perishing through the tempter's power,
without leaving the heights you came to the depths in your loving kindness.

Readily taking our humanity by your own gracious will,
you saved all earthly creatures, long since lost, restoring joy to the world.

Redeem our souls and bodies, O Christ,
and so possess us as you shining dwellings.

By your first coming, make us righteous;
at your second coming, set us free:
so that, when the world is filled with light and you judge all things,
we may be clad in spotless robes and follow your steps,
O King, into the heavenly hall.

Source unknown, 10th century

Wilderness is the place of Moses,
a place of no longer captive and not yet free,
of letting go and learning new living.

Wilderness is the place of Elijah,
a place of silence and loneliness,
of awaiting the voice of God and finding clarity.

Wilderness is the place of John,
a place of repenting,
of taking first steps on the path of peace.

Wilderness is the place of Jesus,
a place of preparation,
of getting ready for the reckless life of faith.

We thank you, God, for the wilderness.
Wilderness is our place.
As we wait for the land of promise,
teach us the ways of new living,
lead us to where we hear your Word most clearly,
renew us and clear out the wastelands of our lives,
prepare us for life in the awareness of Christ's coming
when the desert will sing
and the wilderness will blossom as the rose.

Francis Brien

Pause for **SILENT REFLECTION**

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **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.**

Hymns suitable for use at home:

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 blessed 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 Giardini (1716-96)

ICH 124

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

Tune: BRISTOL From Thomas Ravenscroft's Psalmes (1621)

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Sunday 6th December: Second Sunday of Advent

A Service of Evening Prayer for use at home is available on the cathedral website

Under the Executive Restrictions announced on Thursday 19th November
Belfast Cathedral remains **closed for all events and public worship** until **Friday 11th December**.

However, as permitted by the regulations the cathedral will be open for Private Prayer
Monday to Friday between 1.00pm and 2.00pm
in the area set aside for those who wish to view the
Lives Reflected screen.

This gives opportunity
to remember a loved one or pray for those in current need.
Sanitising arrangements and social distancing will be observed.

Christmas Carol Services at Belfast Cathedral

*Due to the present restrictions we are now planning for one single Cathedral Carol Service
on Christmas Eve, 24th December.*

**Confirmation of Carol Service times and booking arrangements will be posted on
the Cathedral Website and Facebook pages in due course.**

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

However, there will be a **Festival Eucharist at 11.00am on Christmas Morning.**
The Preacher will be the Bishop of Connor, The Right Reverend George Davison.

**Details for Seating at this Service will also be confirmed in due course, when further guidance has
been received by the Dean from the Northern Ireland Executive.**