



**MORNING PRAYER: A SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**



**Please read carefully the instructions overleaf from the Dean regarding the conduct of public worship.**

Today's Service will be Livestreamed on Facebook between 11am and 12 noon.  
For technical reasons the service cannot be viewed after this time.

*Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast.  
Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens.  
Under government guidance for the purposes of keeping  
Contact Tracing Records  
it is essential that you complete the following information.  
Please leave this service sheet **ON YOUR SEAT**  
when you leave at the end of the service.  
These will be retained for 21 days, after which they will be destroyed.  
Thank you.*

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone contact:** \_\_\_\_\_



## **DEAN'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP**

In order to protect the cathedral community from the risk of further closure by the Public Health Agency, I ask you to follow closely the following guidelines:

Face coverings are to be worn by congregation members throughout the entire service. With a change to the guidance issued, **QUIET SINGING ONLY** is permitted by members of the congregation continuing to wear face coverings.

At the end of the service, those sitting on the North (shop) side of the Nave, will leave the cathedral by the **GLASS WEST DOORS**. Those sitting on the South (Baptistry) side will leave by the **SOUTH PORCH**. The congregation will leave from the West end seats first. Please leave when guided by the cathedral wardens. Please ensure that you maintain 2m social distance at all times when leaving, and continue to wear your face covering.

Please **DO NOT STOP ON THE STEPS TO CHAT!** You are asked to make your way straight to the carpark. The PSNI have been known to film those leaving churches to ensure they are maintaining 2m social distance. To facilitate this, regrettably the clergy will not have the opportunity to greet parishioners at the end of the service.

I appreciate that these may seem strict and unwelcome requirements. However they are the only ways that the cathedral can hope to avoid further restrictions which could mean the closure of the cathedral for Christmas Services. Thank you sincerely for your assistance and co-operation. The choir and Music Directors are also following enhanced Covid guidelines.

S Forde – Dean

**Music before the service:** Antienne (Mariales pour orgue) *Naji Hakim (b. 1955)*

*Please stand for the entrance of the clergy.*

**WELCOME**

**THE GREETING**

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

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. *Matthew 3:2*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

## PENITENCE

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light.

*Romans 13.12*

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

*Please kneel or sit*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

*Please stand*

## PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

○ Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

○ God, make speed to save us.

**○ 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.**

*Please remain standing to say the* **PSALM: 89:1-4, 19-26**

My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: ♦

**with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.**

I will declare that your love is established for ever; ♦

**you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.**

For you said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; ♦

**I have sworn an oath to David my servant:**

“Your seed will I establish for ever ♦

**and build up your throne for all generations.”**

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: ♦

**'I have set a youth above the mighty; I have raised a young man over the people.**

'I have found David my servant; ♦

**with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

'My hand shall hold him fast ♦

**and my arm shall strengthen him.**

'No enemy shall deceive him, ♦

**nor any wicked person afflict him.**

'I will strike down his foes before his face ♦

**and beat down those that hate him.**

'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him, ♦

**and in my name shall his head be exalted.**

'I will set his dominion upon the sea ♦

**and his right hand upon the rivers.**

'He shall call to me, “You are my Father, ♦

**my God, and the rock of my salvation;”**

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.**

Please sit for the **FIRST READING:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated as the choir sings an **ANTHEM:** The voice of the angel Gabriel *Philip Ledger (1937–2012)*

When gentle Joseph wedded was  
To Israel's Hebrew maid,  
The Angel Gabriel came from Heav'n,  
And to the Virgin said:  
'Hail, blessed Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord remain on thee;  
Thou shalt conceive and bear a Son,  
Our Saviour for to be':

*Then sing your all, both great and small,  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
We may rejoice to hear the voice  
Of the Angel Gabriel.*

Then Joseph thought to shun all shame  
And Mary to forsake,  
But God's dear Angel in a dream  
His mind did undertake.  
Fear not, old Joseph, she's thy wife  
She's still a spotless maid;  
There's no conceit or sin at all  
Against her can be laid.

So Mary and her husband kind  
Together did remain,  
Until the time of Jesus' birth,  
As Scripture doth make plain.  
As mother, wife, and virtuous maid,  
Our Saviour sweet conceived;  
And in due time to bring us him,  
With whom we all are saved.

*Please sit for the* **SECOND READING:** Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** by Gillian McGaughey, Parish Reader

Please remain seated as the choir sings an **ANTHEM**: Ave virgo sanctissima Howard Skempton (b. 1947)

Ave virgo sanctissima

Dei mater piissima

Maris stella clarissima

Salve semper gloriosa

Margarita pretiosa

Sicut lilium formosa

Nitens olens velut rosa

*Hail, Holy Virgin,*

*most blessed Mother of God,*

*bright star of the sea.*

*Hail, ever glorious,*

*precious pearl,*

*lovely as the lily,*

*beautiful and perfumed as the rose.*

Please stand and face east for 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.

*Please kneel or sit*

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**

God our redeemer, who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our savior, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE ADVENT COLLECT**

Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who 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 for grace to prepare for the coming of the Lord:

Fill the Church with the power of the Holy Spirit announced to Mary. May the faith of her response be granted to all Christian people in places of vulnerability. May they be open to hear and obey the calling of God.

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

Draw the nations of the world into the Kingdom of the Messiah, that those who hold authority may use it for the good of all. May divine power overshadow the places of strife, violence and fear of the future, bringing them peace.

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

Bless us, our families, friends and neighbours as we make ready for Christmas in these exceptional times, especially those from whom we will be separated. And bless all families in this community who are expecting the birth of a child under current restrictions, that in the birth of Jesus they may find certain hope in these uncertain times.

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

Have mercy on all who are perplexed and troubled, those facing unemployment, economic uncertainty, or a deep fear for their futures. Give them the assurance that God, to whom all things are possible, is born anew in their place of need.

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

We give thanks for the departed who heard and tried to follow the command of God in this world, who have now come to fullness of life with him. We rejoice to praise him with the his mother Mary and all the saints.

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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 hospitals, nursing homes, or in the community. Protect our communities through these days of Christmas, and give wisdom to all who have responsibility in church, society and government for shaping the weeks to come. 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.**

Please stand to sing the **HYMN** (ICH 135\*):

**(Following a change to guidance, members of the congregation MAY SING QUIETLY while still wearing face coverings)**



**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou Wisdom from above  
who order'st all things through thy love;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry over the grave.**

**O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**O come, Desire of Nations, bring  
all peoples to their Saviour King;  
thou Cornerstone, who makest one,  
complete in us thy work begun.**

*Words: 18<sup>th</sup> century Latin, based on The Advent Antiphons from 9<sup>th</sup> century, tr. John M. Neale (1818-66)  
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL Melody from a 15<sup>th</sup> century French Franciscan processional pub. by Thomas Helmore (1811-90) in  
Hymnal Noted (1856)*

## **THE BLESSING**

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts and scatter the darkness from before you: 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.**

*Please remain standing as the clergy depart, and sit for the **Organ Voluntary:**  
Helmsley (Six Fantasies on Hymn Tunes Op. 72) Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988))*

*Please remain seated until the end of the Voluntary, and exit in rows from the back to the front, as directed by the Cathedral Wardens.*

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



In order to reduce the risk of Coronavirus infection  
There will be no Services of Evensong in December held in the cathedral.  
However you may download today's Evensong Service from the Cathedral  
Website for use at home.

### **SERVICES IN THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS, 2020**

#### **Christmas Eve – 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

Again to reduce community transmission,  
this year's Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve  
featuring the Choir of Belfast Cathedral  
will be streamed Live on [www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/](http://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/)  
from 7.30-8.30pm.

The service can also be accessed via the Cathedral Website  
[www.belfastcathedral.org](http://www.belfastcathedral.org)

*On-line donations to the Black Santa Appeal*

To protect the wider community  
**There will be no First Communion of Christmas this year.**

#### **Christmas Day – 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

**Festival Eucharist for Christmas Day**  
**Will be held in the Cathedral at 11.00am.**

**Preacher for the first time as bishop:**  
**the Right Reverend George Davison, Bishop of Connor.**

**Music by the Belfast Cathedral Choir.**

***Please Note: Seats for this service must be pre-booked before 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.***

***Phone 028 9032 8332 (9.30am – 4.30pm)***

***E-mail: [admin@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:admin@belfastcathedral.org)***

#### **Services Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December: The First Sunday of Christmas**

11.00am Morning Prayer: A Service of the Word *Preacher: The Dean*  
*There will be no Evening Service.*

From Monday to Christmas Eve

The Dean, assisted by the canons will be on the steps of the Cathedral  
collecting for this year's Black Santa Appeal.

In a year of unprecedented need, please give as generously as you can.