



BELFAST
CATHEDRAL

MORNING PRAYER: A SERVICE OF THE WORD
The First Sunday of Christmas
The Feast of St John the Evangelist
Sunday 27th December 2020



*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.
Service sheets will be retained for 21 days, after which they will be
destroyed.
Thank you.*

Name(s): _____

Telephone contact: _____



Music before the service: The Shepherd's Farewell *Hector Berlioz (1803-69),*
arr. Robert Gower

Please stand as the choir sings the **HYMN (ICH 162)** during the entrance of the clergy:



**In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter,
long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.**

**Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.**

**What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.**

*Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-93)
Tune: CRANHAM Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

WELCOME

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

PENITENCE

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world. *cf Matthew 1.21*

Please kneel or sit

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.**

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: 148***

Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels;
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

He made them fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the wing;

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and women, old and young together;

let them praise the name of the Lord.

For his name only is exalted,

his splendour above earth and heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

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:** 1 John 1:1-9

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to say the **CANTICLE:** The Song of Christ's Glory (*Philippians 2:5-11*)

Christ Jesus was in the form of God:

but he did not cling to equality with God.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant:

and was born in our human likeness.

And being found in human form he humbled himself:

and became obedient unto death even death on a cross.

**Therefore God has highly exalted him:
and bestowed on him the name above every name.
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow:
in heaven and on earth and under the earth.
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord:
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Please sit for the **SECOND READING:** Luke 2: 15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *by the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean*

Please remain seated for the **SOLO:** Upon my lap my sovereign sits *Howard Skempton (b. 1947)*

Upon my lap my sovereign sits
And sucks upon my breast;
Meantime his love maintains my life
And gives my sense her rest.
Sing lullaby, my little boy,
Sing lullaby, mine only joy!

When thou hast taken thy repast,
Repose, my babe, on me;
So may thy mother and thy nurse
Thy cradle also be.
Sing lullaby ...

I grieve that duty doth not work
All that my wishing would,
Because I would not be to thee
But in the best I should.
Sing lullaby ...

Yet as I am, and as I may,
I must and will be thine,
Though all too little for thy self
Vouchsafing to be mine.
Sing lullaby ...

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

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: Grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

COLLECT OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church; that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son 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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Wonderful counsellor, give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.

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

Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulders.

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

Everlasting Father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.

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

Prince of peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.

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

Almighty Lord, **hear our prayer and fulfil your purposes in us, as you accomplished your will in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

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.**

*Please stand for the **HYMN** (ICH 170):*



**Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
stars and angels gave the sign.**

**Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus:
but wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.**

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-94) based on Matthew 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-18

Tune: GARTAN Irish traditional melody

THE BLESSING

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace: 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:***

Toccata on 'Good King Wenceslas' Matthew Owens (b. 1971)

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.
Material in this service is reproduced from the Book of Common Prayer copyright © RCB 2004.
Belfast Cathedral text, music and live streaming licence numbers CCL 8124, MRL 1049409
www.belfastcathedral.org*



NOTICES



This Afternoon.

*There will be no service held in the cathedral this afternoon.
However a Service of Evening Prayer for use at home can be downloaded from the
Cathedral Website*

Services Sunday 3rd January 2021: The Second Sunday of Christmas

*11.00am Morning Prayer: A Service of the Word Preacher: Gillian McGaughey
A Service of Evening Prayer for use at home can be downloaded from the cathedral
website*

Cathedral Closures:

The Cathedral will be closed from lunchtime today until Monday 4th January, 2021 in line with Covid Restrictions.

The Office will also be closed from until Monday 4th January 2021.

We pray that all our cathedral parishioners and their wider families will keep safe through the ongoing challenges of the current Covid pandemic into the start of 2021.

