



BELFAST CATHEDRAL

MORNING PRAYER: A SERVICE OF THE WORD **The Second Sunday of Christmas** **Sunday 3rd January 2021**



*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: _____



Please stand for the **HYMN** (ICH 153) during the entrance of the clergy:



**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour now to us displayed.**

**A maiden's womb that burden gained
while she a virgin pure remained;
the banners there of virtue glow;
God in His temple dwells below.**

**Forth from his chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.**

**From God the Father He proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds;
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.**

**O equal to the Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

*Words: Ambrose (340-97) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66) and others verses 4&5, based on Psalm 19:5-6
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR German medieval carol melody adpt. Michael Pretorius (1571-1621)*

The congregation is welcomed.

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

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Malachi 4.2

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

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.

*Please remain standing to say the **PSALM: 147:13-21***

Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates:

and has blest your children within you.

He has established peace in your borders:

and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends forth his command to the earth:

and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool:

and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread;

who can endure his frost?

He sends forth his word and melts them;

he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob:

his statutes and judgements to Israel.

He has not dealt so with any other nation;

they do not know his laws. 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14***

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,

and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,

those with child and those in labour, together;

a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand to say the **CANTICLE:** Jubilate (Psalm 100)*

**O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with
songs of joy.**

Know that the Lord he is God:

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

**Come into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with
praise;**

give thanks to him and bless his holy name.

**For the Lord is good his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

**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 **SECOND READING:** John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON by Gillian McGaughey, Diocesan Reader

Please remain seated for the **SOLO:** New Year Carol Benjamin Britten (1913–76)

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

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, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in this light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; 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, trusting in God who receives all who come to him for grace.

As we have been granted the knowledge of God which comes through the revelation of his son, we pray that the Church may be a light to the world.

Confident in truth and enabled by grace, may all her people tell with their lips and follow in their lives the new law of love.

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

Give to all people the knowledge of the power of God who made the world and all that is in it. Grant humility to those who exercise human power, and at the start of a new and challenging year give them right judgement in their decisions. Be merciful to those who do not know Christ, or will not receive him, and let his light break through their darkness.

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

Draw us closer to our families, and our friends, especially those from whom we have been separated in these weeks. May they and we know that love which has come into the world. Make us as those who are born again, not of human will but of God's will, the only source of life and the giver of grace.

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

Have mercy on all who are in error and guide them into the true light of Christ. Bring the fullness of life to those who have made their lives narrow by rejecting love. Comfort and heal the sick and all who suffer in the current pandemic, and strengthen with grace all those who are caring for them.

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

Hold in eternal life those who have died in faith, who have witnessed to the truth of Christ in this world. May the light which led them on their way shine on them always and make them perfect by his grace.

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

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son 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 hospitals and nursing homes, and all who give care in the community. Guide all scientists seeking to understand this new wave of infection we pray, and give wisdom to all who have responsibility in church, politics and society for leading through this pandemic. 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 164):



**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to all
from heaven's all-gracious King!';
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessèd angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the words of peace they bring;
O hush the noise of human strife,
to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

*Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-76) based on Luke 2:14
Tune: NOEL English traditional melody adpt. Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

A PRAYER OF JOHN WESLEY FOR THE NEW YEAR

I am no longer my own, but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you place me, in all that I do and all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. You will be done, when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking, when I have all things and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and all I am to serve you as and where you choose. Glorious and blessed God, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. **Amen**

THE BLESSING

May 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***

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.



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.*

Sunday 10th January 2021: The First Sunday after The Epiphany
11.00am Morning Prayer: A Service of the Word.

Cathedral Reopening:

The Cathedral will be remain closed for the time being,
in line with Covid Restrictions.
The Office will reopen tomorrow, 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.