



**LIVESTREAMED MORNING PRAYER:
A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Sunday 10th January 2021
The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Baptism of our Lord**

Music before the service:

Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam, BWV 685 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie, Op. 13 Maurice Duruflé (1902-86)

OPENING HYMN (ICH 200*):



**The sinless one to Jordan came
to share our fallen nature's blame;
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
and chose the path his Father willed.**

**Above him see the heavenly Dove,
the sign of God the Father's love,
now by the Holy Spirit shed
upon the Son's anointed head.**

**Uprising from the waters there,
the voice from heaven did witness bear
that he, the Son of God, had come
to lead his scattered people home.**

**Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin
go forth with you, a world to win;
and send the Holy Spirit's power
to shield them in temptation's hour.**

Words: George B. Timms (1910-97)

Tune: SOLEMNIS HAEC FESTIVITAS from the Paris Gradual (1685)

The Dean welcomes the online congregation.

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you also are witnesses. *John 15.26,27*

PENITENCE

Because God was merciful, he saved us through the water of rebirth and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism. Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises by confessing our sins in penitence. *Titus 3.5*

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: 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders:

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees:

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf:

and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness:

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare:

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood:

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people:

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

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: Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: Benedictus (*The Song of Zechariah Luke 1:68-79*)

**Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
The Lord has raised up for us a mighty saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through the holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of those who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hand of our enemies.

Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous before him all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

SECOND READING: Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Litany to the Holy Spirit*

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,
Sick in heart and sick in head,
And with doubts discomfited,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,
And the world is drowned with sleep,
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

SERMON by Dean Stephen Forde

ANTHEM: *No small wonder*

Small wonder the star,
small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus,
the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God—
no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings,
small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense,
the myrrh to adore;
but God gives his life on a cross—
no small wonder!

Small wonder the love,
small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory,
the light of his face;
but all to redeem my poor heart—
no small wonder!

Text: Paul Wigmore (1925-2014)

Music: Paul Edwards (b. 1955)

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born of water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Lord for the cleansing of the Church and of the world, in the name of Christ who has made us his own in baptism.

Keep the Church true in obedience to the example and command of her Lord to baptize for the forgiveness of sins and into the life of faith. We pray for Christian unity as baptized people of the one Lord, and for greater efforts towards local co-operation between Christian denominations. Bless those who are Church leaders in this city and province with grace, compassion, integrity and wisdom. Give grace to all Christian people to live according to the promises made at their baptism.

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

We pray that the whole world may know the healing power of God. We pray for the healing of toxic relationships between and within nations due to political difference. Draw us closer in the global fight against the threat posed to all human life by Coronavirus. Let the voice of God's messengers be heard, and God's name be praised among all nations.

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

We pray for those who are preparing for baptism in these weeks of restriction, remembering especially those known to us and those within in this community. We pray that godparents shall remember their responsibility for the spiritual life of those they have sponsored. Reflecting on our own baptism, we renew our commitment to following the Way of Christ and in serving his people and the world he came to redeem.

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

Have mercy on all who have fallen away from their vows of baptism or other solemn promises that they have made. Help them to overcome bitterness or despair and to know the loving support of faithful friends. Grant them the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring them back into the way of holiness.

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

We give thanks for the departed who began their earthly lives by following Christ in baptism and have passed with him through death to life, especially those who have touched our lives for good. Give us grace to follow their example and to run our race with perseverance. May our joy be for ever in the worship of the Holy Trinity.

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

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers in the name 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 face the current surge in hospitals, intensive care units and in nursing homes, and encourage all who give care in the community. Guide all scientists seeking to understand the new variants of the disease, and give wisdom to all who lead in church, politics and society in these challenging times. 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.**

HYMN (ICH 125*):



**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He comes, with succour speedy,
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.**

*Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854) based on Psalm 72
Tune: CRÜGER adpt. By William Henry Monk (1823-89) from a chorale by Johann Crüger (1598-1662) in his Gesangbuch (Berlin, 1640)*

THE BLESSING

Christ the Son be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world: 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.

Organ Voluntary: Präludium und Fuge C-dur, BWV 545 *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Organist: Matthew Owens

Singer: Lynda Barrett



NOTICES



*A Service of Evening Prayer for use at home
can be downloaded from the Cathedral Website.*

Sunday 17th January 2021: The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

11.00am Livestreamed Morning Prayer: A Service of the Word.

Preacher: The Dean's Vicar

Following the guidance issued this week by the Northern Ireland Executive, and the lead given by Church Authorities, Morning Worship from Belfast Cathedral will continue to be Livestreamed at 11am each Sunday morning until Sunday 14th February, 2020.

Until this date, most of the cathedral staff will also be "home working", and so the Cathedral Offices will not be routinely open.

In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Revd Janice Elsdon, the Dean's Vicar or the Dean.

Please remember that you can continue to make your FWO contribution to the Cathedral via On-line Banking.

Bank Details for the Cathedral Account which you will need to make an On-line Banking Transfer are as follows:

Cathedral Bank Branch:

Bank of Ireland, City Centre Branch, 1 Donegall Square South, Belfast. BT1 5LR.

Name of Account: **Parochial No 1 Current Account**

Sort Code: **90-21-27**

Account Number: **10006051**

Please give your own name as the Payment Reference.

Alternatively a Crossed Cheque may be made out to

"Belfast Cathedral Parochial No 1 Account"

and posted to **The Deanery, 5 Deramore Drive, Belfast. BT9 5JQ.**

Cheques will then be delivered to our Finance Officer for cashing at a local branch.

Requests for Standing Order Forms can be e-mailed to:

admin@belfastcathedral.org

Thank you for your continuing financial support for Belfast Cathedral