

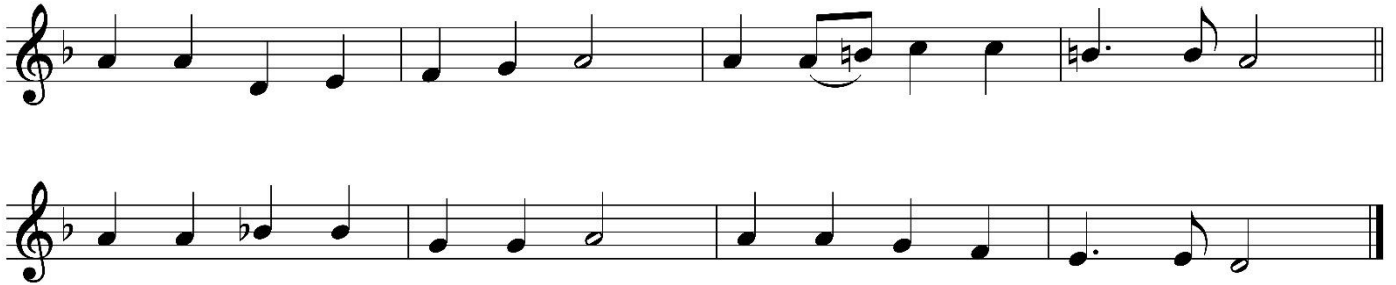


LIVESTREAMED MORNING PRAYER:

A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Sunday 21st February 2021
The First Sunday in Lent

Music before the service: Christe, du Lamm Gottes BWV 619 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

OPENING HYMN: ICH 207*



**Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:**

**sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

**Let us thy endurance share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
with thee watching unto prayer,
with thee strong to suffer pain.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

*Words: G.H. Smyttan (1822-70) & Francis Pott (1832-1909) based on Mark 1:12-13
Tune: HEINLEIN (AUS DER TIEFE) Melody in Nurnbergisches Gesangbuch (1676) attrib. Martin Herbst (1654-81)*

The online congregation is welcomed

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalms 51:17*

PENITENCE

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

In the wilderness we find your grace: you love us with an everlasting love.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

There is none but you to uphold our cause; our sin cried out and our guilt is great.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed; restore us and we shall know your joy.
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.**

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: 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; ♦
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame, ♦
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, ♦
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, ♦
for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, ♦
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, ♦
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; ♦
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right ♦
and teach his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth ♦
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

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 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant

with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: *Venite (Psalm 95:1-11)*

O come let us sing unto the Lord ♦

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving ♦

and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God ♦

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth ♦

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his and he made it ♦

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come let us worship and fall down ♦

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God ♦

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice ♦

harden not your hearts, as in the provocation and as the day of temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me ♦

proved me and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said ♦

It is a people that do err in their hearts for they have not known my ways.

Unto whom I swear in my wrath ♦

that they should not enter into my rest.

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 1:9-15

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.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON by Canon Mark Niblock, Dean's Vicar

ANTHEM:

O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit into our hearts,
and lighten our understanding,
that we may dwell in the fear of thy Name,
all the days of our life,
that we may know thee, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

*Words: Lidley's Prayers (1566)
Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85)*

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

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LENTEN COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ 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

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for all those engaged in providing online services, trying to facilitate common prayer within the confines of lockdown, and for safe, peaceful and holy Lent opportunities for a personal spiritual growth. May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for all political leaders during this difficult time, for wisdom and grace as they plan for future lockdown easements. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighbourhoods and communities. We pray for those from whom we are separated through dispute, betrayal or resentment. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for all NHS and support staff, for those working in GP surgeries, nursing homes and for all carers, asking for renewed energy and hope in the face of exhaustion and despair. May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. Especially we hold the memory of all who we have lost during the past year, and their loved ones, in our minds. We pray for Bishop David and the wider McClay family following the death of his brother, Alistair. We pray also for the families of Jack Cambridge and David McElderry. May the feet of the

risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

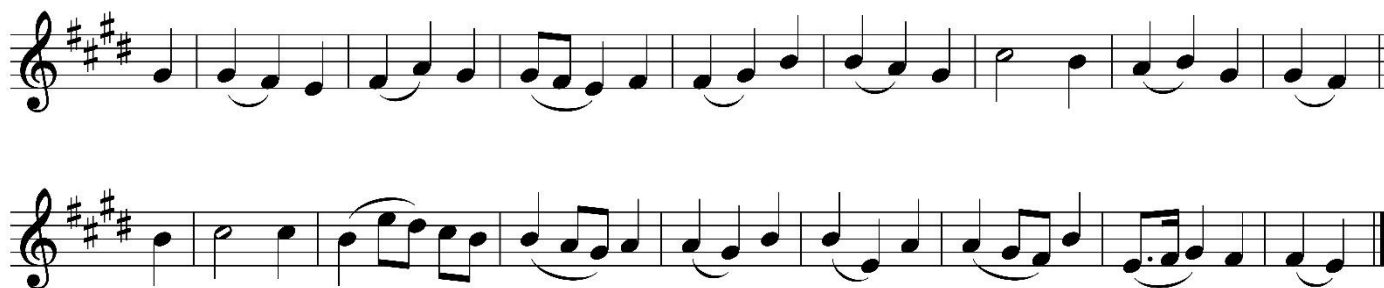
Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

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. Stand with those who grieve. 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 new variants of the infection we pray, and give wisdom to all who have responsibility in church, politics and society for leading a way out of the current Lockdown. 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.**

OFFERTORY HYMN: ICH 639 (*Please do not forget to support the life of Belfast Cathedral through your continued financial giving during these challenging times*)



**O Thou who camest from above,
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and think, and speak for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.**

**Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)
Tune: HEREFORD S.S. Wesley (1810-76)*

THE BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, and to take up your cross and follow him: 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: O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig BWV 618 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Organist: Jack Wilson

Soloist: Susie Hunter



NOTICES



A Service of Evening Prayer for use at home is available for download from the cathedral website.

Sunday 28th February 2021: The Second Sunday in Lent

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

Preacher: Gillian McGaughey, Diocesan Reader

Under current restrictions 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 Rev. Janice Elsdon, the Dean’s Vicar or the Dean.

Lent Reflections

Rev. Dr Ron Elsdon is leading a series of daily Lent Reflections, which will be posted daily Monday to Saturday on the cathedral website and Facebook pages.

Across the six weeks of Lent, and leading to Holy Week, Ron will consider the themes of Lament, Fear, Repentance, Thanksgiving, Perseverance and Hope as with the disciples of Jesus we journey towards the Resurrection of Easter Day.

With a few short minutes each day, we can each stop, pause, reflect and pray to make this different season of Lent into a Lent that makes a difference.

Additionally, the Dean has suggested using the following prayer on a daily basis over coming weeks:

"God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth, and in my speaking. God be in my heart and in my thinking. God be at my end, and at my departing."

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