



BELFAST
CATHEDRAL



**MORNING PRAYER:
A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Sunday 16th May 2021
11.00am
The Seventh Sunday of Easter:
The Sunday after the Ascension Day
And Christian Aid Sunday**

Please take your seat
within the Quire Area of the Cathedral

*In due course we hope to resume congregational singing. However, unfortunately, due to ongoing Public Health concerns, we ask members of the congregation **not to sing the hymns** during this morning's service.*

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast. Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens. We ask you to wear a face covering throughout your visit. 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: _____



Every.

Last.

Drop.

Together we
STOP this
climate crisis

**Rose still
needs
your
help this
Christian
Aid week**

For Rose, every last drop of water is precious.

This Christian Aid Week, you could help Rose's family survive the drought.

Donate to help her community build a dam.

Go to caweek.org

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1195481 Scot charity no. SC509190 Company no. 5171325 Christian Aid Ireland. NI Charity no. NIC101031 Company no. M059134 and ROI charity no. 20054162 Company no. A38638. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Printed exclusively on material sourced from responsibly managed forests © Christian Aid December 2019 150991 Photo: Christian Aid/Adam Finch

Organ Prelude: Chorale *William Mathias (1934-92)*

Please stand for the **OPENING HYMN: ICH 259***

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:

Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, th'eternal name!*

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:

*Words: Michael Saward (1932-2015)
Tune: GUITING POWER John Barnard (b. 1948)*

The congregation is welcomed

THE GREETING

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to the faith we profess. *Hebrews 4:14, 16*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

PENITENCE

Christ has gone up on high, leading captivity captive and bringing gifts for men. As we prepare ourselves to meet him here in the courts of heaven let us call to mind our many failures and sins.

Please kneel or sit

God our Father, **you exalted your Son to sit at your right hand.**
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, **you are the way, the truth and the life.**
Christ, have mercy.
Holy Spirit, **Counsellor, you are sent to be with us for ever.**
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: |

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, ♦
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord ♦
and they meditate on his law day and night.

Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, ♦
whatever they do, it shall prosper.

As for the wicked, it is not so with them; ♦
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, ♦
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, ♦
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

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:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.

'So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to say the **CANTICLE:** The Song of Christ's Glory (*Philippians 2:6-11*)

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:** John 17:6-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave

them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON by Canon Mark Niblock

ANTHEM:

God is gone up on high today,
alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus is king of bliss for aye,
alleluia, alleluia!

Set at the Father's own right hand,
alleluia, alleluia!

Sovereign of sky and sea and land,
alleluia, alleluia!

Now Christ has vanquished every foe,
alleluia, alleluia!

Benedicamus Domino,
alleluia, alleluia!

Words: 15th century Ascensiontide carol
Music John Harper (b.1947)

Please stand to say 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

O God the King of Glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; 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 the Church and for the world and thank God for his love.

Grant that the Church, entrusted with the words of truth, shall be obedient to her charge and make them known with zeal and forgiveness. We pray for George, bishop of Connor, and David, bishop of Down & Dromore, and for all ministers of the Word and Sacraments in their dioceses, that they may serve after the example of our Lord. Grant that all Christian people may live their lives fully in the world, serving its people, but not conformed to its ways when they are contrary to their calling as citizens of heaven.

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

Bless the world in which and for which Christ died and rose again. We pray your blessing upon the people in areas badly affected by high Covid infection rates, poverty, hunger and conflict, particularly in the tensions between Israel and Gaza. We pray also for the ongoing work of Christian Aid across the world. May the Church be a voice for the voiceless, seeking your justice for all. Give to those in authority the wisdom to know that the world where

they have power is not the whole reality, and the grace to use their power for the benefit of those they govern.

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

Protect from all evil our families, friends and neighbours and let them be sanctified as Christ sanctified himself for those he called his friends. We pray for the ongoing community tensions in our Province, and for all who maintain an influence for peace and reconciliation. May all in our community be guided by the words of truth.

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

We pray for those whose faith makes them hated and persecuted because of misunderstanding, prejudice or misrepresentation. We pray for those who flee persecution as refugees. Bless and strengthen all who have received the words of Christ and sacrificed safety and comfort in their service. Watch over the sick and dying, and those who love and care for them, especially those dear to us.

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

We give you thanks for all who heard the gospel and lived and died in its faith, especially those who have been particular examples to us. May their joy be complete in the presence of the Lord who has prepared the way for them. Give us grace and courage to follow the Way of our Master in the hope that neither death nor life nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of the Ascended Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our 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 in this country and across the world. Stand with those who grieve. Give your strength to all who work in hospitals and nursing homes, and those who give care in the community. Guide scientists tracking the new variants of the infection, and those who administer the vaccines. Give wisdom to those who have responsibility in church, politics and society for leading our nation. 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.**

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Please stand for the **CLOSING HYMN: ICH 250***

All hail the power of Jesu's name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng,
we at his feet may fall;
we'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

*Words: Edward Perronet (1726-92) and John Rippon (1751-1836) based on Revelation 4:9-11
Tune: MILES LANE William Shrubsole (1760-1806)*

THE BLESSING

Christ our exalted King pour upon you his abundant gifts and make you faithful and strong to do his will that you may reign with him in glory: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Organ Voluntary: Jubilate, Op. 67, no. 2 *William Mathias (1934-92)*

*Please remain in your place until the Churchwardens direct you to move.
We ask that members of the congregation exit the cathedral via the Treasury Door,
down the stairs or lift, and through the Cathedral Hall.*

Thank you.



NOTICES



Sunday 23rd May 2021: The Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

11.00am Morning Prayer: A Service of the Word

Preacher: The Reverend Janice Elsdon

This service will be held in the Quire of the Cathedral. Please enter via the Cathedral Office Entrance and Hall.

We encourage you to join us in person for this service in the cathedral.

For those who cannot do so, there will be a livestream on the Belfast Cathedral Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/>

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 (and FWO number) as the Payment Reference.

Thank you for your continuing financial support for Belfast Cathedral

In 2021, for the fifty days between Easter Sunday (4th April 2021) and Pentecost Sunday (23rd May, 2021), we invite members of the cathedral family, and those across the churches to join in partnership with **Corrymeela's #CouragePentecost programme.**

Each day we are called, prayerfully and courageously, to make a small change to our daily attitudes or actions, which can lead to a major change in our worldview and the situations of ongoing sectarianism in our land.

There is a separate action or call to change for each day. To follow this programme please connect with Corrymeela's Courage Pentecost Website at <https://www.couragepentecost.com/actions>