



**MORNING WORSHIP:
A LIVESTREAMED SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday 6th December 2020**



Due to the Current Government Covid-19 restrictions applied by the Northern Ireland executive, no congregations are permitted to attend services inside the cathedral on Sunday 6th December. This Service is being Livestreamed using the new Cathedral Webcam facility and integrated sound system.

Music before the Service: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599 J. S. Bach

WELCOME from the Dean's Vicar

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. *Matthew 3:2*

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

People of God: be glad! Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light. Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the love of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

PENITENCE

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith. *cf John 1.23*

Turn to us again, O God our saviour, and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; 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: 85:1-2, 8-13

Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the offence of your people ♦
and covered all their sins.

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together, ♦
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦
and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him ♦
and direct his steps in the way.

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: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SOLO: How beautiful are the feet that bring good news from 'Messiah' *G.F. Handel (1685-1759)*

How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things.

Isaiah 52:7

SECOND READING: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON by the Reverend Canon Mark Niblock, Dean's Vicar

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.

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE ADVENT COLLECT

Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus:

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for all the churches serving the people of Belfast that they may bring hope where there is despair, healing where there is fear, and strength to overcome poverty and brokenness. Bless George, Bishop of Connor, David, Bishop of Down and Dromore and John, Archbishop of Armagh, that they may lead your church with courage and conviction. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for these island nations at a critical moment in our shared histories. Give true wisdom to those negotiating our future relationships. Give understanding to those who are developing community policies in the fields of health, the economy and education. May all who govern know that first they serve. Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. We pray for care home residents and those shielding at home, and for those who long to spend time with them. We pray for all ill in hospital and those caring for them through the current pandemic. We pray for those preparing the programme of vaccinations and for all the hope which hangs on this scientific breakthrough. And in the silence of our hearts we carry to God all we know who are ill or burdened today..... Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember all you have reflected your love to our lives. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, **do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. 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. Continue to protect our communities through this current 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.**

THE ADVENT BLESSING

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts and scatter the darkness from before you: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN: ICH 136

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

To heal the sick stretch forth thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749) tr. John Chandler (1806-76) based on Luke 3:1-18

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW adapted from Musikalisches Hand-Buch by William Henry Havergal (1793–1870)

THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary: Präludium et Fuge e-moll, BWV 533 J. S. Bach

Organist: Jack Wilson, Assistant Director of Music
Soloist: Susan Shepherd



Sunday 6th December: Second Sunday of Advent

A Service of Evening Prayer for use at home is available on the cathedral website

Under the Executive Restrictions announced on Thursday 19th November
Belfast Cathedral remains **closed for all events and public worship** until **Friday 11th December**.

However, as permitted by the regulations the cathedral will be open for Private Prayer
Monday to Friday between 1.00pm and 2.00pm
in the area set aside for those who wish to view the
Lives Reflected screen.

This gives opportunity
to remember a loved one or pray for those in current need.
Sanitising arrangements and social distancing will be observed.

Christmas Carol Services at Belfast Cathedral

*Due to the present restrictions we are now planning for one single Cathedral Carol Service
on Christmas Eve, 24th December.*

**Confirmation of Carol Service times and booking arrangements will be posted on
the Cathedral Website and Facebook pages in due course.**

This year, due to Covid restrictions,
there will be **no** Christmas Eve Service of Midnight Holy Communion.

However, there will be a **Festival Eucharist at 11.00am on Christmas Morning.**
The Preacher will be the Bishop of Connor, The Right Reverend George Davison.

**Details for Seating at this Service will also be confirmed in due course, when further guidance has
been received by the Dean from the Northern Ireland Executive.**