



**LIVESTREAMED SERVICE OF REFLECTION
FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY:
9.00AM
Wednesday 17th March 2021**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

A PRAYER OF GATHERING

O God who created the heavens and stretched them out:

We praise you.

You fashioned the earth and all that lives there:

We praise you.

You give breath to the people upon it

And Spirit to those who walk it.

We praise you and thank you, O God.

That the eyes of the blind are opened,

The broken hearted are healed,

The poor hear the good news

The captives be brought out of darkness.

Your kingdom come, O Lord, Your will be done

So shall we sing a new song, O lord,

And praise your name for ever.

The righteous will be remembered for ever; the memory of the righteous is a blessing.

Psalm 112: 6, Proverbs 10: 7

PENITENCE

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our rebellion and ask his mercy by turning our back on all those things which separate us from the love of God:

I turn my back, O Lord, on ill-will, envy and malice;

I leave behind regrets and bitter traits.

I turn my back, Lord, on possessiveness and grasping;

I leave behind my headstrong foolish ways.

I turn my back Lord, on misuse of earth and people;

I leave behind my headless, selfish days.

SILENCE

The God of Peace give us his pardon,

And fill us with the sweetness of his grace. **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.

FIRST READING: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 145:1-9 BCP PAGE 760

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: John 4:31-38

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving^l wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS DRAWN FROM THE CONFESSION OF ST PATRICK

HYMN – ICH 326 – ST PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE.

COLLECT FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

Almighty God, in your providence you chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of you Word: Grant that walking in that light, we may come at last to the light of everlasting life, 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

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

- Lord, give us grace to turn our adversities into advance for you...
- Lord, give us willingness to go anywhere for you....
- Lord, give us courage to win a rising generation for you....
- Lord, give us boldness to confront all evils for you....
- Lord, give us faithfulness to overcome all disappointments for you....
- Lord, give us creative imagination to communicate the Truth for you....
- Lord, give us holiness to conquer the corroding advance of false beliefs, and convenient half truths for you...

Let us pray for all women who live in fear, of dark streets, of violence against their person and violence against their dignity....

Let us pray for this land of Patrick and for ourselves as people of Patrick's faith, that centuries of mistrust, and decades of violence may find in Christ the healing that learns to forgive, and the trust that reaches out to the other...

Let us pray in the face of the current pandemic, that God's healing will prevail, and all loss will be enfolded in a resurrection of hope....

May the eternal Father, the eternal Spirit, and the eternal Word shield us on every side, protect us from every and bring us to the land of God's eternal promise.

A PRAYER DURING THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

○ 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, though exhausted, work in hospitals and nursing homes, and all who give care in the community. We pray guide all who seek to understand the new variants of the infection, and those who are administering the vaccines. Give wisdom to those 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A BLESSING

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you, 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.

*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.
Material in this service is reproduced from the Book of Common Prayer copyright © RCB 2004
Belfast Cathedral text, music and live streaming licence numbers CCL 8124, MRL 1049409*