



# NOTICES



\* **Sunday Worship**

As you will be aware there has been no in-person Church services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December. Thankfully we have been able to 'meet online!' Thank you to everyone who got online and followed our Sunday worship. We very much appreciate the encouragement we have received from our church family.

This Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, our Advent Series will, again, be made available online.

You can keep up to date with information on our church services via Facebook and email.

\* **Envelope Drop Off**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11am – 1pm there will be an envelope drop off at St Patrick's. Please come along with your freewill offering envelopes.

\* **Connor Diocese Advent Reflections**

Every day during the month of December some of the clergy in Connor will be posting short Advent Reflections. Keep up to date via Facebook to see some familiar faces and journey through the season Advent with other churches in the Diocese.

\* **Ballymena Church Members Forum Advent Reflections**

Thursday Advent Reflections are a longstanding tradition in the town and one which we always enjoy taking part in! Due to current Covid restrictions this year's reflections will be broadcast online. Keep up to date and take part in the reflections during Thursday lunchtimes via Facebook and YouTube.

\* **Bishops Appeal – Mother and Child Advent Appeal**

This year's Advent appeal is in aid of mothers and children. Lydia Monds, Bishops' Appeal's Education Advisor, says: 'This Advent, how apt that as Christians follow the story of a heavily pregnant young woman on an arduous journey, going into labour in an overcrowded town and giving birth next to animals, that Bishops' Appeal would focus on expectant and young mothers today and the challenges that they are facing in keeping themselves and their children safe. In such difficult times, we are grateful to those who are in a position to support this Mother and Child Appeal.' To donate go to the Bishops' Appeal website or post a cheque payable to Church of Ireland

Bishops' Appeal to: Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, Ireland.

\* **Prayer Teams for December**

December –

6<sup>th</sup> Millicent McClelland – 07791736117

13<sup>th</sup> Adelaide Nimick – 25460865

\* **Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal**

Ballymena Salvation Army are now accepting vouchers and toys for the Christmas Toy Appeal. Toys can be donated, however, due to COVID restrictions vouchers would be preferable. Donations can be made on Wednesdays 10am-1pm at the Salvation Army shop on Broughshane Street. Please get involved and help out families in need this Christmas!

\* **Please pray ...**

- Pray for all those who work in the NHS, the emergency services and all other key workers.
- Pray for people being treated in hospital, those being cared for in nursing homes and sheltered accommodation and for those being cared for in their own homes.
- Give thanks for our 'online' community and for the blessings of technology. Pray for all those in the parish who make it possible for our worship to continue online.
- Pray for all those continuing to develop, and for those involved in rolling out, the Covid vaccines. Also pray for all those involved in researching cures for other devastating diseases and illnesses.
- Continue to pray for the Executive, our Health Minister and for all those in authority.
- Pray for those areas of the world dealing with the pandemic and those that don't have the resources and medical facilities that we are blessed with.
- Give thanks for those opportunity to continue the tradition of Thursday Advent reflections with other churches in the Ballymena Church Members Forum. Pray for churches in the town and the continuing Christian witness in Ballymena.
- As lockdown continues this week, pray for peace and safety in our community, our nation and in our world.

# Sunday Morning Worship

6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## The Second Sunday of Advent



*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.."*

*Isaiah 9:2*

### Opening Prayer

Lord, grant us a glimpse of Your glory:  
open our eyes to Your coming to us,  
that we may know You are with us always,  
and that You are a very present help in trouble.  
Lord, as You abide in us, and we abide in You,

may we show traces of Your glory in our lives,  
and so glorify You, Lord Jesus,  
Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Lighting of the Second Candle on the Advent Wreath*

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message  
of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us  
the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

*Opening Worship – Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!*

Confession BCP.p.102

*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. John 1.23.*

**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.***

Absolution BCP.p.102

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on 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.*

Family Talk

The Apostle’s Creed BCP p. 112

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.*

*Bible Reading*

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your Living Word. We pray that in the power of Your Holy Spirit, You would open our hearts and minds to the truth. Open our ears to hear Your voice speaking to us. May we grow in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus today. Feed our hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving we pray. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*

*Sermon*

*Collect of the Day BCP p.241*

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.*

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.*

### *Prayers and Intercessions*

In our prayers and intercessions this morning the response to 'Lord, show us Your mercy,' is '**and grant us Your salvation.**'

'Lord, show us Your mercy,'  
'**and grant us Your salvation.**'

Lord, You come to us in power, to send us out in Your Name.

Strengthen us to proclaim the Good News without fear.

May we be able to say 'Here is Your God,'  
and show forth Your glory in all the world.

We pray for all those who preach the Gospel, for all teachers and pastors,  
for all those who lead Your Church, in our nation and around the world, during these  
times.

We pray for all those who seek to witness to Your love:  
Lord, show us Your mercy, **and grant us Your salvation.**

We pray for all those in authority and all those who have influence over us.

We pray for teachers and leaders, for the media, for charities and local and national  
government,

We pray for wisdom for all those who make decisions about our future or set us  
standards and guidelines to follow and for all those who influence our hearts and  
minds:

Lord, show us Your mercy, **and grant us Your salvation.**

Lord, in our homes let us be wise to our use of words,  
that we may dwell in love and peace with each other.

We pray for areas of the world where words are used to hurt, for homes where there  
is abuse, and places where there is violence and cruelty.

Lord, You restore, You forgive, You bring peace.  
We pray for broken peoples, for the broken-hearted and those broken in spirit.  
We pray for those who are bereaved, those who are ill and for those suffering due to the Covid-19 pandemic.  
We pray that they may know Your peace and Your love:  
Lord, show us Your mercy, **and grant us Your salvation.**

We remember friends and loved ones this morning.  
We pray especially for those who are ill and bereaved  
*We take a moment to pray for them now. . .*

Lord, show us Your mercy, **and grant us Your salvation.**

As we journey through Advent and look to the arrival of Jesus as a little baby, we thank You Father for Your unending goodness and love.  
We thank You that send us Your Son Jesus Christ to meet us in our need.  
We thank You that we can come to You this morning;  
that You dwell in our hearts and journey with us this Advent and Christmas season.  
May our hearts be firmly fixed on You, Your Son and on the things of the Spirit.  
Lord, show us Your mercy, **and grant us Your salvation. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

*BCP p. 112*

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.**

*Closing Worship – I will Trust my Saviour Jesus*



*I will trust my saviour Jesus  
When my darkest doubts befall  
Trust Him when to simply trust Him  
Seems the hardest thing of all*

*I will trust my saviour Jesus  
Trust Him when my strength is small  
For I know the shield of Jesus  
Is the safest place of all*

*Jesus, only Jesus  
Help me trust You more and more  
Jesus, only Jesus  
May my heart be ever Yours*

*I will trust my saviour Jesus  
He has said His way is best  
And I know the path He's chosen  
Leads to everlasting rest*

*Jesus, only Jesus  
Help me trust You more and more  
Jesus, only Jesus  
May my heart be ever Yours  
Jesus, only Jesus  
Help me trust You more and more  
Jesus, only Jesus  
May my heart be ever Yours*

*Oh on that cross, how it was seen  
I can go now ever trusting in the One who died for me  
What could I bring, for Your gift is complete  
So I trust You, simply trust You, Lord with every part of me*

*Oh on that cross, how it was seen  
I can go now ever trusting in the One who died for me  
What could I bring, for Your gift is complete  
So I trust You, simply trust You, Lord with every part of me*

*Jesus, only Jesus  
Help me trust You more and more  
Jesus, only Jesus  
May my heart be ever Yours  
Jesus, only Jesus  
Help me trust You more and more*

*Jesus, only Jesus  
May my heart be ever Yours*

*Closing Prayer and Blessing*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God...**

...and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. *Amen.*