

Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration at St Gall's Church



The Lord is my strength and my song:

He has become my salvation.

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things:

Let it be known in all the world.

The Lord is our light and our life:

Come, let us worship.

Hymn

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it: let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad.

Beloved in Christ on this Sunday of Harvest Celebration we have come together to acknowledge our dependence upon God and to praise him for his goodness. We have gathered from town and countryside, from fields and gardens, from workshops and from factories, to give Him thanks for the harvest of our land, and for His presence with us throughout the year. And we ask with confidence his continued blessing upon the labours of our hands.

Let us pray together.

The Congregation sit or kneel to pray.

The land has yielded its harvest.

God, our God, has blessed us.

As we recall our disobedience to God's commandments and our failure to do his will; let us confess our sins to God our Father:

We say together: **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**

we have sinned in thought and word and deed,

through negligence, through weakness,

through our own deliberate fault.

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.

The Rector pronounces the absolution:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We stand together.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, our God and Father, for you have created us & you sustain us.

Through your only Son Jesus Christ you have revealed your love & your care for all your people; you are ready to forgive & to save in time of need; so we proclaim your glory, saying

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

A Collect for Harvest

We give you thanks for the harvest of the earth, which provides food to maintain life, both in body and spirit; Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 67

Let God be gracious to us and bless us:

and make his face shine upon us,

That your ways may be known on earth:

your liberating power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you O God:

let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing:

for you judge the peoples with integrity and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you O God:

let all the peoples praise you.

Then the earth will yield its fruitfulness:

and God our God will bless us.

God shall bless us:

and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,; and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

First Lesson: Philippians 4 verses 1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Canticle : Jubilate

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.
Know that the Lord he is God;
it is he who has made us and we are his we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Come into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his courts with praise;

Give thanks to him and bless his holy name.

For the Lord is good his loving mercy is for ever, his faithfulness throughout all generations.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,; and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Lesson: Matthew 22 verses 1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves,

maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon: Canon Michael Parker

We stand and affirm our faith.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Let us pray. We focus our thoughts on our Harvest gifts. What they are. Where they are going. We think of those they will be helping. We say together:

**Accept, Lord, these our gifts,
and use them for your purposes of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for giving us power, through your Spirit, to reveal your life to the world: strengthen, bless and guide us to make you known by word and example.....

We are your Church, O God:

Guide us in your grace.

We thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth which you have given us to cherish and protect: nourish us in your love for all that you have made

We are your stewards, O God:

Guide us in your grace.

Guide and bless us in our work and in our play, and shape the patterns of our country's political and economic life, that all may share in the fulfilment of your creative work.

We are your servants, O God:

Guide us in your grace.

Awaken our hearts to your presence in all people: in those we love; in those whom we find it difficult to love, in those who differ from us and in those who are familiar to us

We are all made in your image, O God:

Guide us in your grace.

We thank you for the gift of life with its blessings and its sorrows. Shield the joyous, comfort and strengthen those in any need or trouble

Bless those who will be born today and those who will die, joining in the company of all your saints, that we may rejoice in one unending song of praise

In you alone we have eternal life, O God:

Guide us in your grace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we offer these our prayers and thanksgivings to you, O God, source of all that is true and holy, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We say together a General Collect

Eternal God and Father, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love:

Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service

to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us sum up our prayers and praises in the words our Saviour Christ has taught us and say:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Father of many resting places grant you rest:

The Christ who stilled the storm grant you calm

The Spirit who fills all things grant you peace.

God's light be your light,

God's love be your love,
God's way be your way.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with
you this day and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

The Prayer of Dismissal. We say together:

**Be with us Lord God, creator of all, to strengthen us on our journey, to guide us
in all our doings, that we may share in the love and care for your world.**

Rector: We go into the world

**Congregation: To walk in God's light. To rejoice in God's love.
And to reflect God's glory. Amen.**

Parish Notices

For folks at home. Google St Gall's Church to find our parish website. Put St Gall's Church into YouTube and 'Like' and 'Subscribe' to the St Gall's channel.

Our Easter Vestry will be held today - Sunday 11th October - Following after the 10 a.m. service. This will be a short meeting to elect the Select Vestry and some other roles so that we can continue the work of the parish. Please stay behind after the service if you can.

Our 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion services have restarted. This service will be held in the McCambley Rooms. Social distancing works better in that bigger room. Entrance will be via the door adjoining the Church Office. Masks must be worn by all: "It will be good to be back at the Lord's Table and receiving his gift of life in our Communion." Please pass the word on to other people.

Our Church Office has reopened with three volunteers answering the phone - our thanks to Nanette, Mary and Helen for taking on this key role. Open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon. Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. Would you like a chat? Give us a ring on 91853810. Would you like someone to be prayed for? Is there someone in your family who is ill or in need of prayer? Get in touch with the office and the team will pray for them.

Bangor Storehouse : This Harvest Sunday we are collecting for Storehouse. This week or any week remember to bring something a little extra for the big green boxes. Our local food banks make all the difference for some.

Christian Aid: An appeal has been launched to respond to the needs of overseas communities struggling with Cover 19. Aid agencies are working with partners to provide basic medical care & support. You can ring 9064 8133 to make a donation to the Belfast office.

Next Sunday 18th October we celebrate St Gall's Day Bring your Teddy! I'll be bringing mine! We will welcome as our preacher Bishop Alan Abernethy.

This Friday 16th October is St Gall's Day.

Keep an eye out online for a special lecture given online this year by Dr Gearóid Trimble. The talk will retrace the life and legacy of one of Gall who at the end of the 6th century set off from these shores with Columbanus to carry the Gospel into Europe. In the midst of the Dark Ages, the missionary monks from Bangor earned a widespread reputation not just for their zealousness and piety, but also for the extent of their learning and literacy. Gall settled in modern-day northern Switzerland and famed for his erudition, he became the genesis of a literary tradition that has survived throughout the ages in the monastery and city of St Gallen. A city that developed from humble beginnings - the hermit cell the Gall set up in the remote Steinach Valley in 612.

Speaker: Dr Gearóid Trimble

Gearóid holds a PhD in Irish Literature and lives in Belfast. He is an independent researcher on literary aspects of the Irish language, on which he has published numerous books and articles. His research into St Gall in particular has been published under the following titles: *Ogham Gleanings from an Irish Manuscript in the Swiss City of St. Gallen* and *Naomh Gall – Oidhreacht Léinn & Líteartha an Naoimh Éireannaigh a Bhunaigh Cathair St Gallen na hEilbhéise*.