

The Sunday before Advent - The Kingship of Christ

22nd November 2020



The Lord be with you
and also with you.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God;

For that is what we are.

Beloved, we are God's children now:

What we will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this: when Christ is revealed, we will be like him,

For we will see him as he is.

Hymn:

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.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Kneel.

Silence is kept.

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.

The priest pronounces the absolution.

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.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word - We stand together

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

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 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;

serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God;

It is he that has made us and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,

and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

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.

The First lesson : Ephesians 1: 15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and

has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Canticle : Te Deum Part 2

You, Christ, are the King of glory,

the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free,

you humbly chose the Virgin s womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers

You are seated at God's right hand in glory:

we believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,

bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints

to glory everlasting.

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.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 25: 31-46

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at

his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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

Sermon - Canon Michael Parker

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 Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray - we kneel together

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

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 for Today

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

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.

Hymn

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

As we close our prayers we keep silence.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God. Amen.

To God, who by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations for ever and ever. **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.

Please note that in line with government 'lockdown' guidance there will be no 'in church' service on Sunday 29th or 6th December.

Our Church Office has reopened with three volunteers answering the phone. They are doing a terrific job. Nanette, Mary and Helen have been reaching out and getting in touch. The office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon. Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be all about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. SO...would you like a chat? Or know someone who would? Call 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 & the team will pray for them.

**Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6.30 p.m.
(Restrictions permitting)**

Contact Pauline Smyth on 91852486 to book your seat. We will be maintaining social distancing within the church for this service so spaces are strictly limited for safety reasons.

Christian Aid: An appeal has been launched to respond to the needs of overseas communities struggling with Covid 19. Aid agencies are working with partners to provide basic medical care & support - www.christianaid.ie to give directly. Or you can ring 9064 8133 to make a donation to the Belfast office.

Prayer for this Week

God of the tides, whose faithful rhythm underlies our daily lives, help us to keep on, with courage and caring, both when we are full and fulfilled

and in times of ebb and emptiness -
neap and spring tides in our lives -
within the ocean of your love.
Amen.

A prayer by Jan Such Pickard, The Iona Community