

HOLY COMMUNION CELTIC-STYLE

15 May 2022

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

GATHERING WORDS

In the beginning, before time, before people,
before the world began:

All God was.

Here and now among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven:

All God is.

In the future, when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfilment:

All God will be.

Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit:

All God was, God is, God will be.

That the eyes of the blind be opened,
the broken-hearted be healed, the poor hear the good news,
the captives be brought out of darkness:

All Your Kingdom come, O Lord. Your will be done.

So shall we sing a new song, O Lord:

All And praise your name for ever.

Hymn

Love Divine

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

O God of life,
eternity cannot hold you,
nor can our words catch the magnificence of your kindness.
Yet in the space of our hearts and in silence
You come close and make us whole.

Holy God, Maker of all:

All Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Mary:

All Have mercy on us.

God's whole creation groans.
The land produces thorns and thistles.
Our sin affects all around us.

(silence)

Let us confess our sin in penitence and faith:

All In the community of Christ's Church
and in the presence of all God's people,
I confess to God that I have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
I have not loved God, cared for God's world,
or respected God's people as I should.
I own my responsibility and pray for God's pardon.

May God forgive us,
Christ befriend us,
and the Spirit renew and change our life.

All Amen.

I believe that God forgives and set us free:

All We believe that God forgives and sets us free;
and so we commit ourselves to following where Christ calls
and to loving one another.
Amen.

READING

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ⁸But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them

just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Alleluia!

Listen to the word which God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the Voice behind creation;
listen – even if you don’t understand.

All Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord

John 13: 31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
which is meant to change our lives.

**All So how are our lives going to change
now that we have heard it?**

TALK

Hymn

A New Commandment

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us stand and declare our faith in our Creator God.

**All We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,
of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection
and of life eternal.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

THE STORY OF THE LAST SUPPER

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did.
To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and
command rooted in the experience he shared with his
disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

Reader

*On the night he was betrayed, as they were sitting at a meal,
Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to his
disciples saying, 'This is my body. It is broken for you.'
Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said,
'The cup is the new relationship with God made possible
because of my death. Drink this, all of you, to remember me.'*

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine,

the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour.
In these, Jesus has promised to be present;
through these, Christ can make us whole.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The God of Love be with you.
All And also with you

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Great Creator Spirit, from whom all life comes forth,
here we gather again with bread and with wine,
seeking your presence, longing once more to be nourished.

**All We hunger for wholeness in our lives,
for unity on earth and for peace among the nations.
And we know that only in your love
can such peace and unity be found.**

**And so with all that we are
and all that we can give,
we join with all creation
as we proclaim your praises:**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

So as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room,
send down your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may become for us your body,
healing, forgiving and making us whole;
and that we may become, for you, your body,
loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes,
on earth as in heaven.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

So, in the presence of the Bread of Life
who refused food for himself in order to nourish others,
we deepen our devotion by praying his words:

All 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.

INVITATION

He whom the universe could not contain
is present to us in this bread.
He who redeemed us and called us by name
now meets us in this cup.
So take this bread and this wine.
In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Communion is administered and music plays

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

All As we seek to abide in you,
grant that, through the power of your Holy Spirit,
earth and heaven may meet in us, too,
that in and through us the Father's will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Amen.

THE PEACE

Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us now.

All Let us share it with each other.

(greet each other using sign language)

NOTICES

Hymn

Big family of God

BLESSING

From where we are
to where you need us:

All Jesus, now lead on.

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal:

All Jesus, now lead on.

To refashion the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your Kingdom:

All Jesus, now lead on.

And the blessing of the Triune God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All Amen.