

Killiskey Parish

Sunday 27th December 2020 @ 11.00am



The First Sunday of Christmas

SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

The Gathering of God's People

GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.
1 John 4: 9

OPENING PRAYER

Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on the earth to which he came.
Like the shepherds, encouraged by angels,
may we still seek and find you,
born of Mary in crowded Bethlehem,
and glorify and praise you
for all we have heard and seen.
Blessed be God for ever.

PENITENCE

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.**

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.**

Hymn: CH158 "God rest you merry, gentleman"

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,
was born upon this day
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:

The shepherds at these tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger
where oxen fed on hay;
his mother Mary, kneeling,
unto the Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace.
The holy tide of Christmas
all others doth efface:

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

Versicles and Responses

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.

The First Reading: Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm: Psalm 148

- 1 Alleluia.
Praise the Lord from the heavens; ♦
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; ♦
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; ♦
praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, ♦
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, ♦
for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; ♦

he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, ♦
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, ♦
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, ♦
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, ♦
creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, ♦
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women,
old and young together; ♦
let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, ♦
his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people
and praise for all his faithful servants, ♦
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Alleluia.

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 Second Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hymn before the Gospel: CH179 "See amid the winter's snow" (vs 1-2, 5-6)

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

*Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he, who throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble Thee
in thy sweet humility.

Edward Caswall (1814-78)
based on Luke 2: 1-20

The Gospel: Luke 2: 15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

SERMON

COLLECT OF THE WORD

Saving God,
whose Son Jesus was presented in the temple
and was acclaimed the glory of Israel
and the light to the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory;
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**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.**

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers
and grant our 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 OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
Grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **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.**

PRAYERS:

We pray for God's faithfulness to be known in our world.

In a world of change and hope,
of fear and adventure,
faithful God
glorify your name.

In the common life of our society,
in prosperity and need,
faithful God
glorify your name.

Among our friends
In our church and in our homes,
faithful God
glorify your name.

In our times of joy,
in our days of sorrow,
faithful God
glorify your name.

In our strengths and triumphs,
in our weakness and at our death,
faithful God
glorify your name.

In your saints in glory
and on the day of Christ's coming,
faithful God
glorify your name.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: CH114 "Thou didst leave thy throne"
Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,
when thou camest to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
for Thy holy nativity.

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
to proclaim thy royal degree;
yet in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,
and in deepest humility.

Though thou camest, Lord, with the living word
that should set thy people free;
yet with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,
they bore thee to Calvary.

When the heav'ns shall ring, and the angels sing,
at thy coming to victory,
let thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,
there is room at My side for thee."

*Emily ES Elliott (b. 1836-97) altd.
based on Luke 2: 7; Matthew 8: 20*

Going Out as God's People

BLESSING

God the Father,
who reigns in highest heaven,
bring you the grace and truth of the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace
to trust his promises and obey his will. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
by whose power Mary conceived
dwell in your hearts in love. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**