**Church of Ireland**

**Diocese of Armagh**

**Rural Deanery of Creggan and Louth**

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But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**ONLINE SERVICE**

**Sunday 27th December 2020**

HYMN

**THE GREETING**  *Page 201*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**and also with you.**

**WELCOME**

**SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. *Matthew 22: 37-39*

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**CONFESSION**

God our Father,

you sent your Son full of grace and truth:

forgive our failure to receive him.

*Sung* **Kyrie, eleison.**

Jesus our Saviour,

you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:

forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

*Sung* **Christe, eleison**

Spirit of Love,

your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:

forgive the hardness of our hearts.

*Sung* **Kyrie, eleison***.*

*Sung* **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One: you alone are the Lord: you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**THE COLLECT** of the first Sunday of Christmas.

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**

### **THE LESSON: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3**

### The lesson is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 61, beginning at verse ten.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**: 148 (*page 764)*

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.

### **THE EPISTLE:** Galatians 4: 4-7

### The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter four, beginning at verse four.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13: 24-37**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Luke, in the second chapter, beginning at the fifteenth verse.

*Sung***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Sung* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

Let us bring before God, our needs and the needs of the world.

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light. Christ born for us,

Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom:

help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross:

by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,

**hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

 **OFFERTORY HYMN**

**AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:

by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

**THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

*The priest takes the bread and wine in his hands.*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 1**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

*Proper Preface*

You have given Jesus Christ your only Son to be born of the Virgin Mary, and through him you have given us power to become the children of God:

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed \* he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, \* Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper \* he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, \* for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**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.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

 The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

**AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

**THE COMMUNION**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

 HYMN during communion

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

**THE GREAT SILENCE**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, you have refreshed us with this heavenly sacrament. As your Son came to live among us, grant us grace to live our lives, united in love and obedience, as those who long to live with him in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**