**15th November 2020 Second Sunday before Advent**

HYMN Angel voices, ever singing

*Page 201*

*Iain*

**THE GREETING**

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

**and also with you.**

*Iain*

**WELCOME**

*Iain*

**SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE**

Do not enter into judgement with your servant, O Lord; for no one living is righteous before you. *Psalm 143:2*

*Iain*

**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.**

*Iain*

**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.**

*Iain*

**CONFESSION**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace:

*Silence*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk 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.**

*David*

**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.**

*Victor*

**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.**

*Joyce*

**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.**

*Iain*

**THE COLLECT** of the Second Sunday before Advent

Everliving God,  
before the earth was formed,  
and even after it shall cease to be, you are God.  
break into our short span of life  
and show us those things that are eternal,  
that we may serve your purpose in all we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*Helen D*

## THE FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord God!  
   For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,  
   he has consecrated his guests.  
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
   and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently[\*](javascript:void(0);) on their dregs,  
   those who say in their hearts,  
‘The Lord will not do good,  
   nor will he do harm.’  
13 Their wealth shall be plundered,  
   and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
   they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
   they shall not drink wine from them.

*Jane A*

14 The great day of the Lord is near,  
   near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,  
   the warrior cries aloud there.  
15 That day will be a day of wrath,  
   a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
   a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
16   a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
   and against the lofty battlements.

*Georgina*

17 I will bring such distress upon people  
   that they shall walk like the blind;  
   because they have sinned against the Lord,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
   and their flesh like dung.  
18 Neither their silver nor their gold  
   will be able to save them  
   on the day of the Lord’s wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
   the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
   he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Richard and Joyce*

## Psalm 90

1  Lord, you have been our refuge ♦︎  
   from one generation to another.  
2  Before the mountains were brought forth,  
      or the earth and the world were formed, ♦︎  
   from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
3  You turn us back to dust and say: ♦︎  
   ‘Turn back, O children of earth.’  
4  For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, ♦︎  
   which passes like a watch in the night.  
5  You sweep them away like a dream; ♦︎  
   they fade away suddenly like the grass.  
6  In the morning it is green and flourishes; ♦︎  
   in the evening it is dried up and withered.  
7  For we consume away in your displeasure; ♦︎  
   we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.  
8  You have set our misdeeds before you ♦︎  
   and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.  
[ 9  When you are angry, all our days are gone; ♦︎  
   our years come to an end like a sigh.  
10  The days of our life are three score years and ten,  
      or if our strength endures, even four score; ♦︎  
   yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,  
      for they soon pass away and we are gone.  
11  Who regards the power of your wrath ♦︎  
   and your indignation like those who fear you?  
] 12  So teach us to number our days ♦︎  
   that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

## THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

## *Annemarie*

## The Epistle is from the first letter to the Thessalonians, in the fifth chapter, beginning at the first verse.

5Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,[\*](javascript:void(0);) you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved,[\*](javascript:void(0);) are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

*Michael or John*

6So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL HYMN

O Lord of heaven

## THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25: 14-30

## *Iain*

## Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Matthew, in the twenty fifth chapter, beginning at the 14th verse

## Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

14 ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents,[\*](javascript:void(0);) to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

*Richard*

19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” 21His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” 23His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.”

*Joyce*

26But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

*The Rev'd Richard Moore*

**THE NICENE CREED** *Stand*

*Richard*

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

*Joyce*

**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.**

*Iain*

**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** PROPER 25 YEAR A

*David*

Let us pray that the gifts of God may be rightly used.

Give grace to your people so to use all that has been entrusted to them that they may bring new hope to many and show forth the glory of God.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

*David*

Bring a spirit of compassion into our world where business, power and politics are hard and competitive, and where it is more fashionable to exclude than to include. Give wisdom to each of us to know that all we have comes from you alone.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

*David*

Bless in this community all who proclaim your gospel by caring for the poor and the helpless, by finding shelter for the homeless and by ministering to the sick. Make us more grateful for all that we have received and more willing to share it with others.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

*David*

We pray for all those facing new challenges in the months ahead: the people of Milltown as they greet their new rector; Geoffrey and Christine as they take up that new ministry. We pray for the people of the United States as they face the jubilation or the disappointment of their new President; we pray for President-elect Biden: guide him in all that he does and says. May just peace replace division and love vanquish hatred.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

*Victor*

Have mercy on all who suffer: the anxious ones fearing the future, the lonely ones wishing for the past, the sick whose lives are weary with long suffering. Lay your loving hand upon them, bring them healing and peace.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

*Victor*

In this time of pandemic, we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19: those who are ill and all who care for them; those whose lives and livelihoods are at risk; our leaders with the responsibility for making difficult decisions. Grant that each of us may act so that all of us are kept safe.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

*Victor*

We give thanks for the memory of those whom we loved and now see no more. Help us to live as people who believe in the resurrection to eternal life, so that all may share in the joys of your eternal kingdom.

*Joyce and Richard*

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

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

*R and J*

**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**

*Joyce*

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

**AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

**HYMN**

According to thy gracious word

**THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

*Stand. The Presiding Minister takes the bread and wine and may say*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3**

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:

 Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away, you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened wide his arms upon the Cross and with love stronger than death, he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, on the night before you died, you came to table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you, you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks and said, Drink this, all of you’ tis is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you, you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Dying, you destroyed our death, rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make u, who know our need of grace, one in Christ our risen Lord.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven for every praising you and saying:

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

Thanks be to you, our God, for you gift beyond words.

**Amen. Amen. 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**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer 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

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

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

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

**THE GREAT SILENCE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious Lord,  
in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope.  
Bring us at the last to that pure life for which we long,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Richard and Joyce*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**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.**

*Joyce*

**THE BLESSING**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

**HYMN**

**DISMISSAL**

*Richard*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

**HYMN**

**According to thy gracious word v2**