

CHRIST CHURCH, BRAY

Family Service



The Fifth Sunday before Advent

11am Sunday, 25th October 2020

Available to join live or download later at churchservices.tv/christchurchbray

The Bells of Christ Church Bray

Musical Prelude

The Gathering of God's People

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

We hear the voice of God calling,
"Love your neighbour as yourself."
We feel the Spirit moving among us,
moving us to acts of compassion and justice.
We know the love of Jesus.
We love because Christ first loved us.
Come, worship God together.
Come, let us serve our God,
who calls us by name.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the Lord.
All praise to his name.

Hymn 64 – In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all
here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave He rose again!
and as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt of life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

The Collect of the Day

**Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
Help us to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Penitence

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess that we need forgiveness.
Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us from slavery to sin.
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love ; in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

<i>Proclaiming and Receiving the Word</i>
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Reading: Genesis 44:14-45:3 (The Message)

¹⁴ Joseph was still at home when Judah and his brothers got back. They threw themselves down on the ground in front of him.

¹⁵ Joseph accused them: "How can you have done this? You have to know that a man in my position would have discovered this."

¹⁶ Judah as spokesman for the brothers said, "What can we say, master? What *is* there to say? How can we prove our innocence? God is behind this, exposing how bad we are. We stand guilty before you and ready to be your slaves—we're all in this together, the rest of us as guilty as the one with the chalice."

¹⁷ "I'd never do that to you," said Joseph. "Only the one involved with the chalice will be my slave. The rest of you are free to go back to your father."

¹⁸⁻²⁰ Judah came forward. He said, "Please, master; can I say just one thing to you? Don't get angry. Don't think I'm presumptuous—you're the same as Pharaoh as far as I'm concerned. You, master, asked us, 'Do you have a father and a brother?' And we answered honestly, 'We have a father who is old and a younger brother who was born to him in his old age. His brother is dead and he is the only son left from that mother. And his father loves him more than anything.'

²¹⁻²² "Then you told us, 'Bring him down here so I can see him.' We told you, master, that it was impossible: 'The boy can't leave his father; if he leaves, his father will die.'

²³ "And then you said, 'If your youngest brother doesn't come with you, you won't be allowed to see me.'

²⁴⁻²⁶ "When we returned to our father, we told him everything you said to us. So when our father said, 'Go back and buy some more food,' we told him flatly, 'We can't. The only way we can go back is if our youngest brother is with us. We aren't allowed to even see the man if our youngest brother doesn't come with us.'

²⁷⁻²⁹ "Your servant, my father, told us, 'You know very well that my wife gave me two sons. One turned up missing. I concluded that he'd been ripped to pieces. I've never seen him since. If you now go and take this one and something bad happens to him, you'll put my old gray, grieving head in the grave for sure.'

³⁰⁻³² "And now, can't you see that if I show up before your servant, my father, without the boy, this son with whom his life is so bound up, the moment he realizes the boy is gone, he'll die on the spot. He'll die of grief and we, your servants who are standing here before you, will have killed him. And that's not all. I got my father to release the boy to show him to you by promising, 'If I don't bring him back, I'll stand condemned before you, Father, all my life.'

³³⁻³⁴ "So let me stay here as your slave, not this boy. Let the boy go back with his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? Oh, don't make me go back and watch my father die in grief!"

45 ¹⁻² Joseph couldn't hold himself in any longer, keeping up a front before all his attendants. He cried out, "Leave! Clear out—everyone leave!" So there was no one with Joseph when he identified himself to his brothers. But his sobbing was so violent that the Egyptians couldn't help but hear him. The news was soon reported to Pharaoh's palace.

³ Joseph spoke to his brothers: "I am Joseph. Is my father really still alive?" But his brothers couldn't say a word. They were speechless—they couldn't believe what they were hearing and seeing.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

A Collect of the Word

O God,
you have commanded us
to love you above all things
and our neighbours as ourselves.
Grant us the Spirit to think and do
what is pleasing in your sight,
that our faith in you may never waver
and our love for one another may not falter;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever **Amen**

Talk

Theme: God Saves His People.

Key verse Genesis 45: 4-8

4 Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. 5 Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. 6 We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. 7 God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive[a] and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. 8 You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

The Response to God's Word

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Lord, hear our prayer.
And in your love answer.

Loving God,
Like Joseph, we don't always understand why things happen the way they do;
why our plans and dreams fail,
and we find ourselves facing challenge after challenge,
and disappointment after disappointment.

Yet, like Joseph, we also believe that You are at work in our lives,
and that You have a larger plan and purpose for each one of us.

Give us faith to trust in You no matter what challenges we face.
Give us courage to place our dreams and ambitions in Your hands,
and then follow where You lead without hesitation,
confident that Your loving presence goes with us. **Amen.**

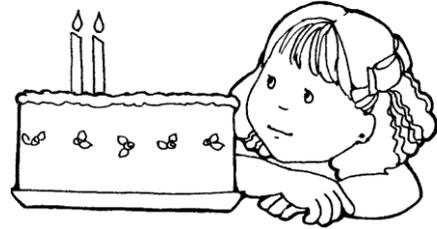
The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.**

Happy Birthdays



...Happy Birthday to you

Going Out as God's People

The Blessing

May God bless you with Discomfort ...
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with Anger ...
at Injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with Tears ...
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough Foolishness ...
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

Franciscan benediction

The Dismissal

Our service of worship has ended, our worship through service continues.
Thanks be to God

Hymn 581 I, the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Daniel L. Schutte(b.1947)

Musical postlude

Next Sunday, 1st November, All Saint's Day

11:00am Holy Communion

Remembering those who have died in recent days, months, and years. If you have names of loved ones you would like read out during this service please WhatsApp, text or ring Baden 087 948 4407.

Classics by Candlelight

We are hoping to hold an online version of 'Classics by Candlelight' on Sunday 29th November at 7pm. The content and format of the concert will be guided by restrictions at that time (and technical ability). More details to follow.

HO! HO! HO!

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE NOW..... all proceeds as usual to charities which more than ever need our support now due to COVID, they really are suffering... If you do not wish to buy a tree could you please make a donation as this will be very helpful to the charites

Orders taken NOW

(1) From Parish Office (01) 2862968 or email christchurchbray@gmail.com

(2) Order by email to wilkinsecure@hotmail.com

(3) Order by phone George (087) 2543113 or office (01) 2868377

Collection from Christchurch Bray on Saturday 5th December 10am-12noon

All trees are NON-SHREDDERS, very keen prices, we are holding last years prices!!!!, on behalf of all the charities we thank you for your support.

4ft, 6ft, 8ft, 10ft, 14ft

Prices:

4ft - €35.00

6ft - €40.00

8ft - €45.00

10ft - €55.00

14ft - €65.00

Thankyou for helping!!!!

Just to cheer everyone up for the festive season everyone who orders a tree this year, their name will be entered into a draw for a bumper Christmas Hamper and the draw will take place on Saturday 12th December

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Rev. Baden Stanley 087 948 4407 (day off Tuesday)

Lay Minister: David Reynolds 087 918 7792

Parish Office -286 2968

Tracey is working from home but will not be working on Tuesday and Wednesday 27th and 28th October, please do email or leave a phone message.

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www.christchurchbray.ie