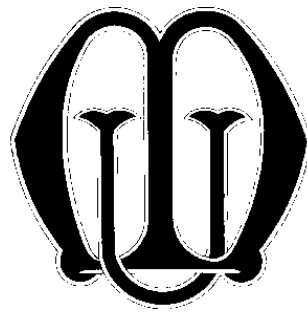


CHRIST CHURCH



CATHEDRAL



MOTHERS' UNION ALL IRELAND MONTHLY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2021

As members of the congregation arrive, they are given a link for a paper chain on which to write a short prayer, the name of a victim or of a survivor of domestic abuse or other appropriate word or phrase. These will be collected during the service and formed into a paper chain for use at the end of the service.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE GREETING

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

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral, and welcome to all who join us world-wide via the Cathedral's webcam.

You are most welcome to this All Ireland Mothers' Union monthly service of Holy Communion, which today focuses especially on the Mothers' Union Sixteen-days of Global Action against Domestic and Sexual Abuse Campaign, which runs annually from Thursday 25th November to Wednesday 10th December.

As we raise our voices on behalf of the voiceless, we also raise our voices in worship and intercession to our loving and righteous God.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

(Psalm 116: 1,2 NRSV)

Let us draw near in faith to the Lord who draws near to us with love and hears our prayers for mercy.

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.**

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.

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 is kept

**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.**

ABSOLUTION:

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.**

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

Heavenly Father, stir us with a resolve not to be silent
to speak out against the abuse of power, especially in our homes,
to speak up for those who have been pushed down in any way,
and to speak to the needs of those who are suffering at the hands of
another.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who extended his forgiving hands to all. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the
armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son
Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The links for the paper chain are collected now.

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

THE FIRST READING:

1Corinthians 13:4-13

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM:

A WOMAN'S PSALM

O God, I am a woman in a violent world:
let me know your peace.

Let blind rage born of despair
not find its target in me.

Let the value of my life
not be reduced to the jewellery I wear.

Let my family life not end
that life in a gang may begin.

Let rape not violate my body
nor anger ravage my soul.

Let fear not enter my heart
but caution sharpen my mind.

Let the light of Christ so shine in me
that I may reflect your love.

Let the joy that the apostles knew
infuse my spirit and alleviate my pain.

Let Love who suffered and died on the cross
find resurrection and new life in the world you love.

O God, I am a woman in a violent world
let me know your peace.

Elizabeth Kaeton (from Lifting Women's Voices: Canterbury Press; 2009)

THE GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke, chapter 4,
beginning at verse 14.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁴Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ADDRESS:

*Ms Kelley Bermingham,
Community Officer, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin,
and co-creator of the CRiTiCALL initiative*

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty and everliving God,
hear the prayers which we offer in faith and love:

We give you thanks that you encourage us out of silence to name
hidden and domestic abuse.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for all women who despite suffering from abuse and
violence, continue to care for family and children, to grow and
prepare food, to carry water, to earn a living and to offer support to
others.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for women who are trafficked as domestic or sex workers,
and for women who are raped and do not know how to find words
to name their pain or a way into the future.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the transformation of our societies, where presently it
is often found easier to judge the victims of violence than to solve
the problems of injustice.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray that women's voices may be heard and taken into account in all peace and reconciliation work.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for a transformation in the violent way many men act towards and think about women.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for right and just relationships between women and men, that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms and learn to celebrate our diversity and our interdependence.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We look forward to an age of peace, when violence is banished, both women and men are able to love and to be loved, and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the work and witness of all members of Mothers' Union, locally and internationally, and their enabling to carry out your mission on earth through the work of Mothers' Union worldwide.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for our link Dioceses at home and abroad; and from the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer, we pray especially for Mpumalanga in South Africa; Central Buganda in Uganda; Zonkwa in Nigeria; Bo in Sierra Leone; Newcastle in England and Barrackpore in India.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord,

we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit,

may we be united in prayer and worship,

and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world:

in Jesus' name. Amen.

(please stand)

THE PEACE

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

(John 13:34,35)

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

and also with you.

The paper chain of prayers is brought forward and placed on the Communion Table.

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;

nourish your people with the word of life,

and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(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:
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 saying:

**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, we are bold to say

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.

THE COMMUNION

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God,

who has taken away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word and I shall be healed.

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

THE GREAT SILENCE

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

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.**

The paper chain of prayers is broken apart during the following two prayers.

Loving Lord,
hear our cries for justice
and break the chains of abuse
that all may live in safety.

Loving Lord,
hear our cries for righteousness
and break the chains of oppression
that all may live in freedom

Loving Lord,
hear our cries for mercy
and break the chains of fear
that all may live in peace. **Amen.**

Compassionate God,
may those experiencing all forms of violence
be given courage, hope and the means
to break free from their abuse.

We pray for all who live in fear of violence
and despair that life will ever change:
Bring to an end their suffering;
restore their sense of worth.
That they may find safety and refuge, free from fear,
bring to light deeds of abuse hidden in darkness.

We pray for all to follow your example
of treating women with equality and respect.
We pray for the dawn of a better world
where justice and peace may flourish. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God give us eyes
to recognise abuse where it exists.
May God give us a heart
to reach out in compassion.
May God give us courage and resolve
to make a difference wherever we are:
And the blessing of God almighty, the Holy Trinity,
guide our steps today, this week and always.

Go in peace and in resolve:
in the name of Christ. Amen.

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The Intercessions: World Council of Churches.