



THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST ANNE, BELFAST.

CELEBRATING OUR RECONCILING VISION OF HOPE

A service of worship to mark the centenary of the establishment of the Irish Council of Churches and 50 years since the historic Ballymascanlon Talks which led to the establishment of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting

3.30PM SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY 2023

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



**Churches
in Ireland**
Connecting
in Christ

**Irish Council of Churches
Irish Inter-Church Meeting**

The Irish Council of Churches and Irish Inter-Church Meeting are the organisations through which the national leaders of our member churches engage, dialogue and act together.

Participant churches in the Irish Council of Churches:

Antiochian Orthodox Church
Church of Ireland
Cherubim and Seraphim
Greek Orthodox Church
Indian Orthodox Church
Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church
Lutheran Church in Ireland
Methodist Church in Ireland
Moravian Church (Irish District)
Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Religious Society of Friends
Redeemed Christian Church of God
Romanian Orthodox Church
Salvation Army (Ireland Division)

The Irish Inter-Church Meeting comprises representation from the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference and the Council and meets four times a year.

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast



Please stand, as the Canons of the Cathedral and the Dean escort to their seats the Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast, the Irish Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and remain standing to sing

HYMN 361: NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

**Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next!**

**All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

Words: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-78)

Tune: NUN DANKET, later from of melody from Johann Crüger's Praxis Pietatis Melica (Berlin, 1647 edn.).

Harmony adpt. from Mendelssohn's Lobgesang (1840)

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME – THE DEAN

*Please remain standing for the **OPENING RESPONSE***

Leader: God is here.

Congregation: **The Spirit is with us.**

*Please sit while the Benedictine Monks sing **DEUS IN LOCO SANCTO***

Deus in loco sancto suo:	God is in his holy place;
Deus, qui inhabitare facit unanimes	the God who causes us to dwell
in domo:	together, one at heart, in his house;
ipse dabit virtutem et fortitudinem	he himself will give power and
plebi suæ.	strength to his people.

*Please kneel or sit for **PRAYERS** read by Rt Rev'd Andrew Forster, ICC President (A) and Most Rev'd Brendan Leahy, IICM Co-Chair (B).*

A: How great is this place, for it is the touching-place of God.
In Christ, we are gathered from the edges and woven into the dream.
Here we feel the hint of heaven, where justice, love and mercy meet.
Here we celebrate the blessedness of unity in God.
We, who were once far off, are brought near.

B: So we pray, God, creator of all,
in your love, you have made each one of us
in your grace, you gather us together
in your image, in your mercy,
you make us restless until we find our rest in you.
Disturb us in our contentment,
distract us from our comforts
deter us from our conflicts until your kingdom comes and your will is
done. Amen.

*Please stand to sing **HYMN 528: THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION***

During this hymn a representative of each church will place a framed copy of their church logo on a table, symbolising the unity in Christ of all of our churches, and celebrating each tradition's distinctive contribution.

**The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.**

**The world with scornful wonder
may see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, 'How long?';
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three-in-One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.**

*Words: Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900) based on 1 Corinthians 3:11 & Ephesians 5:25-27
Tune: AURELIA, S.S. Wesley (1810-76)*

*Please sit or kneel for **PRAYERS** led by Most Rev'd John McDowell (A) and Very Rev'd Kieran McDermott (B):*

A: We gather to pray for the unity that is Christ's gift to the Church.

B: We gather in hope that the world might believe and be reconciled to God.

A: We recognise that we are part of churches and communities that are divided by injustice, especially the sins of sectarianism and racism, which stand contrary to the image of God shining from every human face.

B: "And what does the Lord require of us but to do justice, and to love kindness, and walk humbly with our God?" (Micah 6:8) And so we come in penitence and faith to confess ...

Silence

A: Forgive us Lord, when we come to worship without walking humbly before you.

Congregation: **May we be forgiven.**

B: We ask forgiveness for the complicity of churches in the evils of sectarianism and racism.

Congregation: **May we be forgiven.**

A: We ask forgiveness for our sins of injustice and oppression.

Congregation: **May we be forgiven.**

B: We have been called to unity. Forgive us anew and reconcile us to one another. May God's mercy free us from our sins, to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

Congregation: **Amen! Thanks be to God!**

Readers together: Merciful Lord,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Please stand while the Choir sings:

O Lord, open thou our lips.
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

Please sit while the Benedictine Monks sing **PSALM 85: 1–13**

Antiphon: You forgave the guilt of your people in time past, now let us see O Lord your mercy and show us your saving help.

O Lord, you once favoured your land
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage,
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God, our helper!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us for ever,
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.
The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Antiphon

*Please sit for the **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Micah 6:6-8** read by Pastor Anja von Issendorff, Lutheran Church in Ireland*

‘With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Please remain seated as the choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT***

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

*Please sit for the **NEW TESTAMENT READING:** 2 Corinthians 5:12-20 read
by Rt Rev'd Dr John Kirkpatrick, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Ireland*

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

*Please remain seated as the Benedictine Monks sing the **NUNC DIMITTIS***

Antiphon: Lumen ad revelationem gentium: et gloriam plebis tuæ Israel.

Nunc dimittis servum tuum
Domine, secundum verbum tuum
in pace. *Ant.* Lumen ...
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare
tuum.

Antiphon: Lumen ...

Quod parasti ante faciem omnium
populorum

Antiphon: Lumen ad revelationem gentium: et gloriam plebis tuæ Israel.

Antiphon: The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel your people.

At last, all powerful Master, you give leave to your servant to go in peace, according to your promise.

Antiphon:....

which you have prepared for all nations,

Antiphon: The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel your people.

FIRST ADDRESS: Rev'd Dr Harold Good, Former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Please stand to sing **HYMN 503: MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE**

**Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred let me bring your love,
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt true faith in you:**

***O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul!***

**Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

O Master, grant . . .

**Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

*Words: Sebastian Temple (1928-97) based on The Prayer of Francis of Assisi
Tune: ST FRANCIS Sebastian Temple (1928-97) arr. Donald Davison (1937-2013)*

The Choir sings:

The Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel:

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

*Please kneel or sit for the **COLLECT FOR UNITY** read by the Rt Rev'd Mike Royal, General Secretary, Churches Together in England:*

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world: forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Please sit as the choir sings the **ANTHEM: CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE***

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;
With his true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled;
On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joy above.

Here, gracious God, do thou for evermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow. And mark each suppliant sigh;
In copious shower on all who pray each holy day thy blessings pour.

O then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices will we raise, the three in one to sing;
And thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long that glorious
tune.

*Text: Anon 7th or 8th century Latin, translated: John Chandler (1806-1876)
Music: Noel Rawsthorne, (1929-2019)*

SECOND ADDRESS: *Most Rev'd Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland*

Silence

*Please remain seated as the Benedictine Monks sing **THERE IS ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM** (Taizé Chant).*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
there is one God who is Father of all.

*Please kneel or sit for **PRAYERS** read by:*

Rev'd Fr Anish John of the Indian Orthodox Church (A)

Rev'd David Nixon, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland (B)

Pleasaunce Perry, representing the Clerk of Ireland Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (C)

Rt Rev'd Lena Cockroft, Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church (D)

Very Rev'd Fr Ioannis Pantelidis, Greek Orthodox Church in Ireland (E)

Col. Neil Webb, Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army Ireland Division (F)

A: Let us give thanks:

For the rich diversity of God's people

For our brothers and sisters in all our Churches

For our forebears who 100 years ago brought the Irish Council of Churches into being

B: For the wisdom and insights that each member Church brings to our work and fellowship

For the 50 years since the Ballymascanlon talks with the Catholic Church and our growing unity in faith and understanding between the Protestant and Orthodox Churches and the Catholic Church

For those whose courage in the past has brought us to these anniversaries.

*Congregation: **O God, receive our thanks and praise***

C: Let us ask God:

For guidance for our future as the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter Church Meeting, as God's people modelling unity in diversity

For a servant heart that we may serve our communities with humility and love

D: For a listening ear that we may hear the silent whispers of those who are hurting and disenfranchised

For a voice to speak for the needy and to challenge inequality and injustice

Congregation: **O God, teach us and show us the way.**

E: Let us ask God:

For wisdom in our continuing work in the civic square that we may speak truth to power

For grace that we may show the Gospel hope of God's love and his call

F: For reconciliation, for humankind to God, and for men and women to each other

That we may, together, model the faith that connects us in Christ

Congregation: **O God, teach us and show us the way, Amen.**

Please stand to sing the **OFFERTORY HYMN 533: GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY**

The Offertory is for the ongoing life and mission of St. Anne's Cathedral Belfast

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage
for the facing of this hour.**

**See how hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, attack his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage
for the living of these days.**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.**

**Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore.**

**Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.**

**Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

*Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)
Tune CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes (1873-1932)*

Please remain standing for the **THE SENDING:**

A FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION read by Rt Rev'd Andrew Forster (A), Most Rev'd Brendan Leahy (B), Rt Rev'd Sarah Groves, Moravian Church and ICC Vice-President (C) and Rt Rev'd George Davison, Bishop of Connor (D)

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

B: May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace

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

All together with D: And may God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
and bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.
Amen.

Attributed to the earliest followers of St Francis

Please remain standing as the Choir and clergy depart during the **ORGAN
POSTLUDE:** Scherzo in G minor by Marco Enrico Bossi (1861–1925)

**Following this Service you are invited to share in refreshments
which will be served in the Nave**

You will be guided by the Cathedral Wardens

Music in this service was provided by
the Choir of
St. Philip & St. James, Holywood, Co. Down,
conducted by Edwin Gray.

The organ was played by Stephen Hamill

*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.
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Irish Council of Churches

The Irish Council of Churches was founded in 1923 in the aftermath of the partition of Ireland, the formation of Northern Ireland, and the Irish civil war. It is the national body through which our member churches formally engage, dialogue and act on a wide variety of issues. We were established by our member churches and are funded by them.

The ICC Executive meets four times a year and is made up of church general secretaries and other nominated representatives from across the range of Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed and Independent church traditions. The President is the public representative of the Council.

Our current President is Rt Rev'd Andrew Forster (C of I). Presidents are elected on a rotation basis and serve for two years.

Our present day membership reflects the changing landscape of Christianity across Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed, Catholic, Independent and Migrant-led churches.

Irish Inter Church Meeting

In 1973 in the midst of the Troubles the Council began historic talks in Ballymascanlon with the Catholic Church which over the course of time became formalised as the Irish Inter Church Meeting. The meeting is coordinated by a committee which also meets four times a year. This Inter Church Committee is formed from the leadership of the churches made up of 50/50 representation from the Irish Bishops Conference and the Council. It is co-chaired by Most Rev'd Dr Brendan Leahy, Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick, and the President of the Council.

ICC Membership

Our constitution describes us as “Christian Communion in Ireland willing to join in united efforts to promote the spiritual, physical, moral and social welfare of the people and the extension of the rule of Christ among all nations and over every region of human life”.

This mandate stems from the original constitution that established the United Council of Christian Churches and Religious Communities in Ireland in 1922. There were seven founding member churches at the Council's first meeting in January 1923 (Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, Moravian Church, Congregational Union, and the Religious Society of Friends/Quakers).

This historical background is significant as it indicates that the Council's ecumenical beginnings were shaped by the aftermath of World War I and the period when partition and the border had just been created on this island.

This Council was one of the earliest pioneers of National Councils of Churches throughout the world and six of its seven founding churches continue in its membership today. The original Council started in the context of momentous changes in Ireland. It served at the cutting edge for those churches wanting to express their Christian witness in working together for the benefit of all peoples, both locally and overseas. Its mandate covered the whole island and continues to reflect the all-Ireland focus of the majority of its member churches.

