

PARISH OF ANNAHILT

**A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE
BLESSINGS OF HARVEST**



**IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, ANNAHILT
ON SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2021
AT 10.00 AM**

**PRESIDENT AND PREACHER:
THE RT REVD ALAN HARPER OBE
FORMER ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH
AND PRIMATE OF ALL IRELAND**

**ALSO OFFICIATING:
THE RECTOR
THE REVD CANON ROBERT HOWARD**

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional Hymn CH 37

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,
to thy final harvest-home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified
in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest-home.

The Rector, the Revd Canon Robert Howard, welcomes all present.

The President greets the congregation with the following words:

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

All: And also with you

‘In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.’ *Philippians 4:6*

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

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.

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:

Kneel

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.

The President pronounces the 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.**

Stand

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (SUNG)

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 DAY

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
Grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need
and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

Sit

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

The Old Testament Reading is from the book Genesis Chapter 1 beginning at verse 1

1 In the beginning when God created* the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God² swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.

24 And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, 'Let us make humankind* in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,* and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷ So God created humankind* in his image, in the image of God he created them;* male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ²⁹ God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.' ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

God be merciful unto | us, and | bless us: and shew us the light of his countenance, and be | merci · ful | unto | us;

That thy way may be | known up · On | earth; thy saving | health a · mong | all | nations.

Let the people praise | thee, O | God: yea let | all the | people | praise thee.

O let the nations re | joice . And be | glad: for thou shalt judge the folk righteously*, and govern the | nations , up | on | earth.

Let the people praise | thee, O | God: yea let | all the | people | praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring | forth her | increase: and God, even our own God, shall | give us | his | blessing.

God | shall | bless us: and all the | ends · of the | world shall | fear him.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, and | to the | Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be | ginning, is | now and shall be for | ever.

| A | men

Sit

THE EPISTLE

The Epistle is from the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians Chapter 6 beginning at verse 2

²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil* the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads.

6 Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn CH 43

Holy is the seed-time, when the buried grain sinks to sleep in darkness, but to wake again. Holy is the spring-time, when the living corn bursting from its prison rises like the morn.

Holy is the harvest, when each ripened ear bends before the blade and crowns the golden year. Store them in our garner; winnow them with care; give to God the glory in our praise and prayer.

Holy seed our Master sows throughout his field; be the harvest holy which our hearts shall yield; quickened by his Spirit, strengthened by his grace, till in risen splendour we behold his face.

Glory to the Father, who has seen our need; glory to the Saviour, who has sown the seed; glory to the Spirit, giving the increase; glory, as it has been, is, and shall not cease!

THE GOSPEL READING

All remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Saint Luke
Chapter 8 beginning at verse 22

All sing: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

22 One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, ²³and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Sing: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE SERMON *THE RT REVD ALAN HARPER*

Stand

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.

Sit

Anthem 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' Soloist: Hayley Howe

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kneel

The Rector says

O Almighty God, Lord of the harvest, you promised through your son to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith:

Lord of your people:

From you comes each good gift of life. As you have blessed the Church with abundant grace, keep her faithful in the offering of word and sacrament. We pray for this diocese, and for David our Bishop.

We give thanks for your faithfulness through the difficulties of covid and offer ourselves in this Group of Parishes to your service. We ask that by the Spirit at work within us, others may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace. We pray for all who are still nervous about returning to In-Church worship.

We pray for our neighbouring Parish of Hillsborough, in particular the Rector Canon Bryan Follis, and the Curate Assistant the Revd Jonathan Brown.

Lord, of all creation

Hear our prayer.

Lord of Creation:

At this harvest time we thank you for the world we see around us: for the flowers, the trees and the animals. Bless all those who care for them. Help us to protect your creation by being careful about how we use your resources.

We thank you that you call us to play our part. May we work with you and with others to address the issues about climate change.

Bless Elizabeth our Queen and others in positions of responsibility, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the Secretary of State Brandon Lewis and the Government, the First Minister Paul Givan, Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill and Executive, also President Michael D Higgins, the Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar & Government in the Republic. Give them courage and insight to develop policies and systems that support the flourishing of all, so that even in these challenging times no-one goes hungry and everyone has dignity. May justice and compassion prevail in political and economic decision-making.

Lord, of all creation

Hear our prayer.

Lord of our relationships:

We ask your blessing on our families, friends and neighbours and pray for all who are facing unemployment, ill health, isolation or financial worries at this challenging time. Help us recognise the interdependence of all life and the importance of just relations and responsible stewardship of all you continue to give us. As we thank you for those who are serving and caring for others, in churches, in charities, in the National Health and other public services, in our neighbourhoods, in our homes, in foodbanks and in many other contexts, give them strength, rest and perseverance. As they work to support others, we ask that they too would receive all they need to thrive.

As we give thanks for all who bring in the harvest of the land and of the sea and for all who grow, manufacture, transport and distribute our food, we ask for your grace and patience with us when we fail to look after your world as we should. Help us to change so that we too may become a new creation walking in the light of your Gospel.

Lord of all creation

Hear our prayer.

Lord of all healing:

Though you have given the human race a rich land, a land of streams and springs, wheat and barley, vines and oils and honey, by sin we have made it a world of suffering and sorrow. We pray for the suffering we are meeting in in our society during this global emergency - those who have lost loved ones, become ill or lost jobs and businesses, families who are struggling to make ends meet. Forgive the injustices and inequalities by which communities and individuals have been burdened for years which have been made evident by the pandemic. May all who are ill or are recovering from illness or who are experiencing poverty receive the support they need and be able to find positive pathways forward. Be with those who have great need both in the world's areas of famine or natural disaster and where growers, suppliers and consumers are suffering hardship following poor harvest yields.

Lord of all creation

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the departed who have been grouped into your care. Grant them the joy of faith brought to fruition in your heavenly kingdom.

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

THE 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.

Stand

THE PEACE

The President introduces the Peace with these words:

The Harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...

followed by:

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Hymn

We hail thy Presence glorious,
O Christ our great high Priest,
O'er sin and death victorious,
At thy thanksgiving feast:
As thou art interceding
For us in heaven above,
Thy Church on earth is pleading
Thy perfect work of love.

Through thee in every nation
Thine own their hearts upraise,
Offering one pure Oblation,
One Sacrifice of praise:
With thee in blest communion
The living and the dead
Are joined in closest union,
One Body with one Head.

O living Bread from heaven,
Jesu, our Saviour good,
Who thine own self hast given
To be our souls' true food;
For us thy body broken
Hung on the Cross of shame:
This Bread its hallowed token
We break in thy dear name.

May we thy word believing
Thee through thy gifts receive,
That, thou within us living,
We all to God may live;
Draw us from earth to heaven
Till sin and sorrow cease,
Forgiving and forgiven,
In love and joy and peace.

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The President 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

Kneel

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:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Word active in creation, who
dwelling among us himself rejoiced in the beauty of the earth,
giving thanks to you for the fruits of harvest and the fishes of the
sea, and through his own work hallowing all human service.

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,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! 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.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:

**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 President breaks the consecrated bread in preparation for the Communion

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

The President says

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.

The Clergy and People receive communion

THE GREAT SILENCE

When all have received the communion, silence is kept for reflection.

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Kneel

The Rector says:

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation
and shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom.

By your grace plant within us a reverence

for all that you give us

that we may be wise stewards of the good things we enjoy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All say

**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

The President says:

Christ, who has nourished us with the bread of life, sow the seed of
His word on your hearts, so that you may bring forth the fruit of the

Spirit, and at last be gathered into His heavenly garner:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
(All sing) **Amen.**

Notices

Hymn

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
In hymns of adoration,
To thee bring sacrifice of praise
With shouts of exultation;
Bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
The hills with joy are ringing,
The valleys stand so thick with corn
That even they are singing.

And now, on this our festal day,
Thy bounteous hand confessing,
Before thee thankfully we lay
The first fruits of thy blessing.
By thee the souls of men are fed
With gifts of grace supernal;
Thou who dost give us earthly bread,
Give us the Bread eternal.

We bear the burden of the day,
And often toil seems dreary;
But labour ends with sunset ray,
And rest comes for the weary;
May we, the angel-reaping o'er,
Stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore
To garner bright elected.

O blessed is that land of God
Where saints abide for ever,
Where golden fields spread far and broad,
Where flows the crystal river:
The strains of all its holy throng
With ours today are blending;
Thrice blessed is that harvest song
Which never hath an ending.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Please remain seated following this service
until advised by a Churchwarden**

Please complete COVID-19 Contact Tracing details below.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing

(in case someone attending this service later becomes ill with COVID-19)

The details below must be completed before you leave church

Name _____

Address _____

Phone no. _____

These details will be retained for 3 weeks and then destroyed

Please leave this service sheet in your seat

For church use: Seat reference number _____