



**The Grouped Parishes of  
Annahilt and Magherahamlet**



**Family Service on  
Sunday 12 September 2021**

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*Greeting*

This is the day that the Lord has made:  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Lord, direct our thoughts,  
help us to pray,  
and lift up our hearts to worship you  
in Spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Spirit of God fills the whole world:  
**Come, let us worship.**

*Hymn HTC 259*

Lord of our growing years,  
with us from infancy,  
laughter and quick-eyed tears,  
freshness and energy:  
*your grace surrounds us all our days-  
for all your gifts we bring our praise.*

Lord of our strongest years,  
stretching our youthful powers,  
lovers and pioneers  
when all the world seems ours:  
*your grace surrounds us...*

Lord of our middle years,  
giver of steadfastness,  
courage that perseveres  
when there is small success:  
*your grace surrounds us...*

Lord of our older years,  
steep through the road may be,  
rid us of foolish fears,  
bring us serenity:  
*your grace surrounds us ...*

Lord of our closing years,  
always your promise stands;  
hold us when death appears,  
safely within your hands:  
*your grace surrounds us all our days-  
for all your gifts we bring our praise.*

*Penitence*

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1.8,9*

Let us kneel and confess our sins to God our Father.

**O God, our loving Father in heaven, we confess that we have sinned against you; we have broken your commandments; we have often been selfish, and we have not loved you as we should. For these, and all our sins, forgive us, we pray; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

In the name of Jesus I declare to you: You are forgiven; your sins are gone. Be strong in the Holy Spirit, and live for God. **Amen.**

*ACCLAMATION*

*Stand*

Let us praise God for his mercy.

**And give thanks to him for his goodness.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now: and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Hymn Old ICH 608*

God is always near me,  
Hearing what I say,  
Knowing all my thoughts and deeds,  
All my work and play.

God is always near me;  
In the darkest night  
He can see me just the same  
As by mid-day light.

God is always near me,  
Though so young and small,  
Not a look or word or thought,  
But God knows it all.

### *THE COLLECT OF THE DAY*

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit  
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:  
Grant that your people may be fervent  
in the fellowship of the gospel;  
that, always abiding in you,  
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD*

*A reading*

#### *Hymn*

God of all learning, God of all knowing,  
we bring our school bags filled with supplies,  
Bless all these tools of learning and growing,  
Use them, we pray, to change many lives.

Bless all the students, young ones and old ones,  
walking or riding, travelling by bus.  
May they remember that you go with them,  
and that they all are precious to us.

Some kids are local, others come farther;  
may we give all the tools that they need.  
May we make sure they're safe, loved and healthy  
so that they all may thrive and succeed.

Bless all who learn and bless all who guide them,  
bless those who teach and counsel and care.  
May they remember you walk beside them,  
Through all their school days, you, Lord are there.

### *THE SERMON*

*The Response:*

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is  
seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

#### *Hymn*

Bless my paper and my pen.  
Guide my spirit deep within.  
Help me think and help me play,  
This whole school year, day by day.

As I move from class to class,  
Guide my footsteps; clear my path.  
Keep my tongue to speak your words.  
Let your will for me be heard.

In all subjects high or low,  
May God's excellence be shown!  
Keep me strong to reach the prize,  
Grow in grace, becoming wise.

Whether far from home or near,  
May I hold God's precepts dear.  
Do my best at every task;  
For this blessing, I do ask.

Help my family be a part  
As I lift my mind and heart.  
As I study, work, and pray,  
Be with them throughout the day.

### *THE PRAYERS*

When it's the night before going to school, and I'm picking out my  
clothes and making sure I have all my school supplies...  
**Jesus is with me.**

When I'm waking up and eating a healthy breakfast to start the day...

**Jesus is with me.**

When I'm getting on the school bus or being driven to school...

**Jesus is with me.**

When I meet my teachers...

**Jesus is with me.**

When I'm playing with my friends at break...

**Jesus is with me.**

When I'm telling my family about my day at school...

**Jesus is with me.**

When I'm praying at night and thanking God for my family, my friends and my school...

**Jesus is with me.**

*Let's pray together:*

**Thank you, Jesus, for always being by my side. I know that if I get nervous or afraid, you will be there with me. I know that I can talk with you any time – day or night – and for that I am so thankful. I pray this all in your name. Amen.**

O Holy God, the time has come when schools have re-opened. As your children begin or resume their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry their text books and notebooks, markers, pens and pencils they will use to learn.

O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in all the various challenges of the coming weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children.

O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, all school Principals, Secretaries and Governors that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion.

O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you – especially in our Sunday School. Grant that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.

O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, these our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture at their baptism. Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their learning, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days.

O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that our children will experience this year the peace of God which passes all understanding. May they not worry about things they cannot control. Assure them that you will guard their hearts and minds and keep them trusting in you. May they not only enjoy the peace of God but also peace with God. May they develop a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving as they look to you daily for their needs. We pray that you will give them the capacity for joy that bubbles up from your peace.

O God of Life and Love

**Hear our prayer.**

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

*A GENERAL COLLECT*

**Heavenly Father,  
in darkness and in light,  
in trouble or in joy,  
help us to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose,  
and to praise your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one,  
we pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us:

**Our Father....**

*Hymn*

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
of the coming of the Lord;  
he is trampling out the vintage  
where the grapes of wrath are stored;

he hath loosed the fateful lightning  
of his terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.

*Glory, glory, alleluia! (x3)*  
*His truth is marching on.*

He has sounded forth the trumpet  
that shall never call retreat;  
he is sifting out the hearts of men  
before his judgment seat;  
O be swift, my soul, to answer him;  
be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

*Glory, glory, alleluia! (x3)*  
*Our God is marching on*

In the beauty of the lilies  
Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in his bosom  
that transfigures you and me;  
as he died to make men holy,  
let us live to make men free,  
while God is marching on.

*Glory, glory, alleluia! (x3)*  
*While God is marching on*

He is coming like the glory  
of the morning on the wave,  
he is wisdom to the mighty,  
he is succour to the brave;  
so the world shall be his footstool,  
and the soul of time his slave.  
Our God is marching on.

*Glory, glory, alleluia! (x3)*  
*Our God is marching on!*

Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself, taking the form of a servant.

**Through your love, make us servants of one another.**

Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor.

**May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world.**

*Let us say together:*

**Be with us Lord, as we go out into the world.**

**May the lips that have sung your praise always speak the truth;  
may the ears which have heard your Word listen only to what is  
good and may our lives as well as our worship be always pleasing in  
your sight, for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### *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 with you and remain with you always. *(All sing)* **Amen**

#### *Hymn CH 453*

Come to us, creative Spirit,  
in our Father's house;  
every human talent hallow,  
hidden skills arouse,  
that within your earthly temple,  
wise and simple  
may rejoice.

Poet, painter, music-maker,  
all your treasures bring;  
craftsman, actor, graceful dancer,  
make your offering;  
join your hands in celebration:  
let creation  
shout and sing!

Word from God eternal springing  
fill our minds, we pray;  
and in all artistic vision  
give integrity:  
may the flame within us burning  
kindle yearning  
day by day.

In all places and forever  
glory be expressed  
to the Son, with God the Father  
and the Spirit blessed:  
in our worship and our living  
keep us striving  
for the best.

The power of God hold and lead us.

**His heavenly host be our guard..**

*Notices*