

## **St. Stephen's Day at Carryduff | Parish Communion | 26 December 2021**

### **Hymn 162 - In the bleak midwinter**

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind  
made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a  
stone:

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow  
on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

2 Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor  
earth sustain;

heav'n and earth shall flee away when  
he comes to reign:

in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place  
sufficed

the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

3 Enough for him, whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk and a manger full of

hay;

enough for him, whom angels fall  
down before,

the ox and ass and camel which adore.

4 Angels and archangels may have  
gathered there,

cherubim and seraphim thronged the  
air;

but his mother only in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

5 What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a  
lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my  
part;

yet what I can I give him, give my  
heart.

### **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.**

### **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 -**

**Lord, have mercy on us,  
and write these your laws in our hearts.**

**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.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis - please stand**

**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 - St Stephen's Day**

### **Acts 7:51-60 - please be seated**

'You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: you always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him – you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.' When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Matthew 10:17-22 - Please stand**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew chapter 10, beginning at verse 17 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

## Hymn 310 - Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. X 2  
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

## The Apostles' Creed *on screen*

### The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church  
**that we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of your Church may truly and humbly serve you:  
**that your name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons  
**that they may be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world  
**that there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake  
**that your glory may be proclaimed through our lives.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble  
**that they may be delivered from their distress.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered their eternal joy  
**may we also come to share in the fulness of your kingdom.**

We pray for our own needs and for those of others:

**Gracious God, grant that the desires of your people's hearts may find favour in your sight, through the intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

### At the Lord's Table

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

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.**

... 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!**

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.**

.. in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
**all honour and glory are yours,  
Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Breaking 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.**

### **Going Out as God's People**

**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 and Dismissal**

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

## **Hymn 174 - O Little town**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2 O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord, Emmanuel.

**Worship: Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jan | New Year Communion Sat at 10:00  
Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan | 8:30 and 10:00 am**