29 January 2023 - Epiphany 4 at Killaney and Carryduff

8:30 am Early Communion (notices on back)

# Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 p 1144 and Gospel Matthew 5:1–12 p 968

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing - Hymn 240

1 Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,  
which before the cross I spend,  
life and health and peace possessing  
from the sinner’s dying Friend.

2 Here I find my hope of heaven,  
while upon the Lamb I gaze;  
loving much and much forgiven,  
Let my heart o’erflow in praise.

3 For the sorrows we adore thee,  
for the pains that wrought our peace,  
gracious saviour, we implore thee,  
in our souls thy love increase.

4 Lord, in ceaseless contemplation  
fix our hearts and eyes on thee,  
till we taste thy full salvation,  
and thine unveiled glory see.

The Greeting - Hello and Welcome

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

O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**  
Let us worship the Lord. **All praise to his name.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Penitence - saying sorry

**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.**

Preparing - to hear God’s word

Your word is a lantern to my feet **and a light upon our path.**

O Lord, your word is everlasting:   
**it stands firm for ever in the heavens.**  
Let us then receive the word of the Lord.   
**So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.**

Psalm 15 - we stand to say

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
**Lord, who may rest upon your holy hill?**

2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life **and does the thing that is right;**

3 Who speaks the truth from the heart **and bears no deceit on the tongue;**

4 Who does no evil to a friend **and pours no scorn on a neighbour;**

5 In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, **but who honours those who fear the Lord.**

6 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour **and never goes back on that word;**

7 Who does not lend money in hope of gain, **nor takes a bribe against the innocent;**

8 Whoever does these things **shall never fall.**

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.**

1 Corinthians 1:18–31 - please be seated

A reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 1 beginning at verse 18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:  
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”  20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.  
26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

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

Children’s Spot

Our God is a great big God - Thanks & Praise 117

Our God is a great big God  
Our God is a great big God  
Our God is a great big God  
And he holds us in his hands

He’s higher than a skyscraper  
He’s deeper than a submarine  
He’s wider than the universe  
And beyond my wildest dreams

And he knows us and he loves us  
since before the world began!  
How wonderful to be a part  
of God’s amazing plan……

Matthew 5:1–12 - Please be seated

A reading from Matthew chapter 5 beginning at verse 1

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.  
He said:  
3 ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
4 Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
5 Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
7 Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 ‘Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

The Sermon - The Crisis of the Cross

My heart is filled - Thanks & Praise 99

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
to him who bore my pain;  
who plumbed the depths of my disgrace  
and gave me life again;  
who crushed my curse of sinfulness,  
and clothed me with his light,  
and wrote his law of righteousness  
with power upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
to him who walks beside;  
who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fear to fly;  
whose every promise is enough  
for every step I take;  
sustaining me with arms of love  
and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
to him who reigns above;  
whose wisdom is my perfect peace,  
whose every thought is love.  
For every day I have on earth  
is given by the King.  
So I will give my life, my all,  
to love and follow him.

Declaring Faith - affirming our belief

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
who made the world?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,  
who redeemed mankind?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church. **This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in One God,**  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Praying Together – Intercessions  
Sunday Collect - Epiphany 4  
The Lord’s Prayer - we pray with Jesus  
How deep the Father’s Love for us

How deep the Father’s love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure!  
How great the pain of searing loss:  
the Father turns his face away  
as wounds which mar the chosen one  
bring many sons to glory!

Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there  
until it was accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart,  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

The Blessing - and Dismissal

We go into the world **to walk in God’s light,**  
**to rejoice in God’s love** **and to reflect God’s glory.**

**Parish Communion at 10:00 and 12:00 on Sunday 5th February**

**Note: Next Week is Larder/FoodBank Sunday. Your help is appreciated**

**Magazine Bundles available at doors**