**30 July 2023 - Trinity 8**

**at Carryduff and Killaney**

**Hymn 329 - Father again in Jesus’ name**

Father, again in Jesus’ name we meet
and bow in penitence beneath your feet;
again to you our feeble voices raise
to sue for mercy and to sing your praise.

**2** Father we bless you for your ceaseless care
and all your work from day to day declare.
Is not our life with hourly mercies crowned?
Does not your arm encircle us around?

**3** We are unworthy of your boundless love,
with careless feet from you we often rove
but now, encouraged by your voice, we come,
returning sinners, to a Father’s home.

**4** O by that name in whom all fullness dwells,
O by that love which every love excels,
O by that blood so freely shed for sin,
open your mercy’s gate and take us in.

**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**

*The lesson reader says:*

Let us hear the word of the Lord.
**So may the light of God’s presence shine into our hearts.**

**Genesis 29.15–28 - please be seated**

A reading from Genesis chapter 29 beginning at verse 15

15 Laban said to Jacob, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”
16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. 18 Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”
19 Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” 20 So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.
21 Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.”
22 So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. 23 But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. 24 And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.
25 When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”
26 Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. 27 Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

28 And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

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

**Be Bold - a call to courage**

Be bold, be strong,
for the Lord your God is with you;
be bold, be strong,
for the Lord your God is with you!

I am not afraid, NO NO NO
I am not dismayed, NOT ME!
for I’m walking in faith and victory:
come on and walk in faith and victory,
for the Lord your God is with you.

**Psalm 128 - we stand to say**

1 Blessed are all who fear the LORD, **who walk in obedience to him.**
2 You will eat the fruit of your labour; **blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
**your children will be like olive shoots around your table.**
4 Yes, this will be the blessing **for the man who fears the LORD.**

5 May the LORD bless you from Zion; **may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.**
6 May you live to see your children’s children— **peace be on Israel.**

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.**

**Matthew 13: 31–33, 44–52 - please be seated**

31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”
33 He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”
44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.
47 “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
51 “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.
“Yes,” they replied.

52 He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

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

**Hymn 386 - Spirit of God**

**Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour’s love.**

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God’s voice is heard.

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

**Word Collect - The Pearl**

**The Sermon - Keith Shaw**

**Offering Hymn 636 - May the mind of Christ**

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.

2 May the word of God enrich me
with his truth from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

3 May the peace of God my Father
in my life for ever reign,
that I may be calm to comfort
those in grief and pain.

4 May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea,
him exalting, self abasing-
this is victory!

5 May his beauty rest upon me
as I seek to make him known;
so that all may look to Jesus,
seeing him alone.

6 May I run the race before me
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

**Declaring Faith - affirming our belief**

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Praying Together - Intercessions**

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

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

**Sunday Collect - Trinity 8**

**The Lord’s Prayer - we pray with Jesus**

**Our Father in heaven,**
**hallowed be your name,**
**your kingdom come,**
**your will be done,**
**on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread.**
**Forgive us our sins**
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**
**Lead us not into temptation**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**
**now and for ever. Amen.**

**A Thanksgiving - we give thanks to God**

Let us bless the Lord **Thanks be to God. Amen**

**Hymn 373 - To God be the glory**

To God be the glory!
Great things he has done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son;
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!**
**O, come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son:
and give him the glory!
Great things he has done!**

O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood!
to every believer
the promise of God;
the vilest offender
who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus
a pardon receives.

Great things he has taught us,
great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher,
and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture,
when Jesus we see.

**Dismissal**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord **In the name of Christ. Amen.**