**29 October 2023 - 5 Before Advent**

**Hymn 518 - Bind us together**

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
With cords that cannot be broken  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
Bind us together with love*

**Verse 1**  
There is only one God  
There is only one King  
There is only one body  
that is why we sing

**Verse 2**  
Made for the glory of God  
Purchased by his precious Son  
Born with the right to be clean  
For Jesus the victory has won

**Verse 3**  
You are the family of God  
You are the promise divine  
You are God’s chosen desire  
You are the glorious new wine

**The Greeting**

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**

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.**

**Forgiveness - a reminder of God’s gift**

**Preparing - to hear God’s Word**

*The lesson reader says:*

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

**Matthew 22:34–46 - Please be seated**

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”  
37 Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”  
41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”  
“The son of David,” they replied.  
43 He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,  
44 “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand  
until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’

45 If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” 46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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

**Children’s Spot - The Greatest Commandment**

**Hymn 515 - A new commandment**

A new commandment I give unto you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love one to another.

**Sunday Club Begins**

**Psalm 1 - we stand to say**

1 Blessed is the one  
**who does not walk in step with the wicked - or stand in the way that sinners take - or sit in the company of mockers.**

2 Instead their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
**and they meditate on God’s law, day and night.**

3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
**which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither**

whatever they do prospers.  
**4 Not so the wicked!  
They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
**6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

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 Thessalonians 2:1–8 - please be seated**

1 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. 2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

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

**Hymn 645 - Father hear the prayer we offer**

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength, that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

**The Sermon - “Share the gospel, share your life”**

**Word Collect - Loving**

**Offering Hymn 662 - He who would valiant be**

**1** He who would valiant be  
’gainst all disaster,  
let him in constancy  
follow the Master.  
There’s no discouragement  
shall make him once relent  
his first avowed intent  
to be a pilgrim.

**2** Who so beset him round  
with dismal stories  
do but themselves confound  
his strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might,  
though he with giants fight:  
he will make good his right  
to be a pilgrim.

**3** Since, Lord, thou dost defend  
us with thy Spirit,  
we know we at the end  
shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I’ll fear not what men say,  
I’ll labour night and day  
to be a pilgrim.

**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 - 5 Before Advent**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Help us to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

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

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

**The Blessing**

**Hymn 529 - Thy hand, O God, has guided**

**1** Thy hand, O God, has guided  
thy flock, from age to age;  
their wondrous tale is written,  
full clear, on every page;  
thy people owned thy goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both of this bear witness:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

**2** Thy heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest, as to least;  
they summoned all to hasten  
to share the great King’s feast;  
their gospel of redemption,  
sin pardoned, earth restored,  
was all in this enfolded:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

**3** And we, shall we be faithless?  
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict  
and cast away our crown?  
Not so: in God’s deep counsels  
some better thing is stored;  
we will maintain, unflinching,  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

**4** Thy mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave thy work undone;  
with thy right hand to help us,  
thy victory shall be won;  
and then, by all creation,  
thy name shall be adored,  
and this shall be their anthem:  
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

**Dismissal**

**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.**

**Notices**

We hope you enjoyed a lie-in this morning!

**CRAFT STALL** for Hope House

Jill McPeak sells craftwork for the benefit of a charity that makes accommodation available for those going through cancer treatment. The house is at Islandmagee. This is available at Carryduff today.

There is **no parish bible study** this week

**All Saints Day Communion Wednesday** at 10:00 am

**Thursday 8:00 pm Mothers’ Union and Friends**

*Our speaker this month is Lisa-Marie Pusch from Flourish NI. The vision of Flourish is to provide a brighter future for any individual affected by human trafficking. They support survivors of modern slavery and their immediate family.*

**Next Sunday Larder and Foodbank Sunday**  8:30 Holy Communion ONE  
10:00 Parish Communion at Carryduff  
12:00 Parish Communion at Killaney