

St Columba, Corby
Order of Service –31st October 2021

Song – As we come into your presence

AS WE COME INTO YOUR PRESENCE

We remember every blessing

That You've poured out

so freely from above.

Lifting gratitude and praises

For compassion so amazing,

Lord, we've come to give

you thanks for all You've done.

Because of Your love we're forgiven;

Because of Your love our hearts are clean.

We lift You up with songs of freedom,

Forever we're changed

Because of Your love.

As we come into your presence

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That You've poured out so freely

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Welcome

Good Morning and welcome to our service for this the 4th Sunday before Advent.

We pray together

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Song – For all the saints

**FOR ALL THE SAINTS,
who from their labours rest,
who Thee, by faith,
before the world confessed:
Thy name, O Jesus,
be forever blest.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Thou wast their Rock,
their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain
in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear
their one true light.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**O may Thy soldiers,
faithful, true and bold,
fight as the saints**

who nobly fought of old;
And win, with them,
the victor's crown of gold!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

O blest communion,
fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle,
they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee,
for all are Thine.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And when the strife is fierce,
the warfare long;
Steals on the ear
the distant triumph song.
And hearts are brave,
again, and arms are strong.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The golden evening
brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm
of paradise the blest.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

But lo! there breaks
a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant
rise in bright array;
The King of glory
passes on His way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

From earth's wide bounds,
from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl
streams in the countless host,

**singing to Father,
Son and Holy Ghost.
“Hallelujah! Hallelujah!”**

Prayer of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
‘Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this:
‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’
There is no other commandment
greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart.
We have not loved**

**our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Almighty and eternal God, you have kindled the flame of love in the hearts of the saints, grant to us the same faith and power of love, that, as we rejoice in their triumphs, we may be sustained by their example and fellowship; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Let's sing together -

Song – Who is there like you?

**WHO IS THERE LIKE YOU?
And who else would give their life for me,
even suffering in my place?
And who could repay You?
All of creation looks to You,
and You provide for all You have made.**

*So I'm lifting up my hands,
Lifting up my voice,*

*Lifting up Your name,
And in Your grace I rest,
For Your love has come to me
And set me free.*

*And I'm trusting in Your word,
Trusting in Your cross,
Trusting in Your blood
And all Your faithfulness,
For Your power at work in me
Is changing me.*

Who is there like you?
And who else would give their life for me,
Even suffering in my place?
And who could repay You?
All of creation looks to You,
and You provide for all You have made.

*So I'm lifting up my hands,
Lifting up my voice,
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*And I'm trusting in Your word,
Trusting in Your cross,
Trusting in Your blood
And all Your faithfulness,
For Your power at work in me
Is changing me.*

Our Bible reading this week is from the gospel of John

A reading from John 11:32-44

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reading taken from the New International Version

Sermon by David Bavin

Good Moorning.

This morning we are going to look at the traditional Halloween theme of bringing the dead back to life. Not by Electrical shocks, or other ghoulish activities. As you have just heard, my text for this All Hallows eve service is,

appropriately enough, the story of Lazarus. So with no tricks and hopefully a couple of treats lets pray.

Heavenly Father I pray that you will be with us this morning. That the words that I speak and we hear, may be your words of wisdom and encouragement. Amen.

This struck me as a strange reading for this morning, but perhaps not for the reasons you might think. If like me you have been going to church for any time the story of Lazarus is one of those stories that you soon get to know very well. So, well that you know that it doesn't start where today's story started. Today we started halfway through, Jesus is already in Bethany or at least just outside of it. Martha has gone out to meet Jesus while Mary has stayed at home with other mourners and sympathisers. While it might be strange to start this particular story in the middle it is often the way it actually happens in real life.

Mary and Martha lived in Bethany with their brother Lazarus and unfortunately their brother was taken ill. They sent word to Jesus that he was ill but for whatever reason Jesus did not turn up. They got on with taking care of him. Unfortunately, things did not work out the way that they would have hoped and Lazarus died. They now had to deal with all that that involved. Funerals happen very quickly in the middle east, even these days they do, in part because it is a hot climate and bodies decompose very quickly. Lazarus was dead and buried. Literally dead and buried. Then Jesus turned up. Mary and Martha have no knowledge of why Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem until now. Nor what he had said about the three of them. Jesus was there with them now. Jesus is where we are now.

Mary has joined Martha and greets him with the words "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Exactly the same words that Martha had greeted him with. This is perhaps wishful thinking, it certainly expressed what they believed about Jesus, they had almost certainly seen Jesus performing healing miracles and believed that Jesus could have prevented Lazarus from dying. They had, nor could have had any conception, of what Jesus would do, could do.

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. Sometimes we forget that Jesus is human. When he finds himself in an emotional atmosphere, he gets caught up in it to. He asks where they have laid the body of Lazarus and

when they show him the tomb he weeps. Yes, we all know that “Jesus wept” John 11: 35, is the shortest verse in the bible but what it says is tremendous. It says Jesus is human, and empathetic. This is not some aloof deity, some detached super hero, this is a real man, with all the feelings that goes with that. I have heard whole sermons based on that single short verse, but not today.

In a demonstration that mankind has not changed very much in 2000 while some people noted Jesus’ compassion others were a little more cynical. Some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. This is where the story could start to take on a more traditional Halloween tone. “Take away the stone,’ he said.

“Martha, ever the practical one, remember it was Martha who attended to all the guests while Mary sat and listened to the teaching of Jesus when Jesus had previously visited and taught at her house, pointed out that the body had been in the tomb for four days. ‘But, Lord,’ said Martha, the sister of the dead man, ‘by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.’

Five verses after saying that Jesus was wholly human, we see the other side of the coin. Here we see Jesus being wholly divine.

Jesus said, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’ So, they took away the stone and Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’. Immediately there was a long loud rumble, and the ground shook. A tremendous flash of lightening split the sky. People screamed and from deep within the tomb there came a long deep mooan. Then a short period of silence followed by another long moan. Then they saw it. A figure wrapped in white cloth, arms out in front of him, tottered from the tomb groaning.

It might be quite Halloween, but unfortunately it is definitely not gospel. In fact, just the opposite if you look at it. The way it is recorded it comes across as very undramatic. Jesus did start with that strong statement, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’ and then he did go on to say a prayer. A rather strange prayer really, said for the benefit of the crowd rather than for Jesus or indeed Lazarus. ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people

standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.’ and then he called out in a loud voice “Lazarus come out!” And then The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.

Jesus said to them, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go.’ Just how straight forward and simple is that. This is a man who has been dead and buried for four days then literally just walks out of his tomb in front of witnesses. No screaming, no groaning, and sorry - no zombies.

This story clearly elevates Jesus above the ordinary, who else could bring someone back from the dead? Quite obviously someone with beyond human power. Even these days with nearly 2000 years of advancement in medical research and practise we can not bring back a man who has been dead for four days and let’s be totally honest there is no doubt that this man was dead. This means that Jesus has power over life and death itself.

Having emphasised the almost normal, undramatic element of this story there is a rather dramatic codicil to the story. Lazarus came back to life, but we do not know how much longer he lived for but he did die again.

Some of those who had seen what Jesus did went and told the chief priests who fearing for their own positions decided that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.’ And so, they started looking for a chance to kill Jesus. This would ultimately of course lead to the crucifixion. In the meantime, a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So, the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him. (John 12 9-11). This passage leaves you with a choice, you can either believe it or reject it. For those of us who chose to accept that Jesus is the Christ this is a story that clearly demonstrates both his human and his divine sides.

Lazarus clearly passed from death to life through the power of Jesus Christ. My dad did part of his national service with a posting in Egypt. While stationed there he was able to spend a leave visiting the holy land. One of the places he visited was the site of Lazarus’s tomb. Like many other places it is now a church. In the crypt of this church, you can enter the place where the body of Lazarus was supposedly laid to rest. To get in you had to duck down and pass through a low door into the small room, for want of a better word. To leave

the tomb you had to reverse this process. As you were about to leave the tomb an old priest seated in the crypt would call out "Lazarus come forth." Of course, this was a great in-joke with the visitors, but is there also something deeper? Jesus still calls to the spiritually dead offering a chance to turn to life.

This afternoon we are offering our young people a chance to attend a light party rather than reflect on the more sinister, darker side of Halloween. Tomorrow is Monday but more importantly it is "All saints day." A day to celebrate all the saints and that includes or could include you and me.

To any that are spiritually dead out there, let me assure you that Jesus is still calling your name and it is not too late to choose to live. To those who have made that choice let me assure you that no one can take that life away from you. To all the saints, good choice.

Song – Higher than the mountains (Your love never fails)

**Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trials and the change
One thing...remains *(repeat)***

**Your love never fails, never gives up
 Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
 Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
 *Never runs out on me***

**Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trials and the change
One thing...remains *(repeat)***

**Your love never fails, never gives up
 Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
 Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
 *Never runs out on me***

On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never, ever have to be afraid
One thing...remains *(repeat)*

Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me

(Bridge)

In death, in life, I'm confident and
Covered by the power of your great love
My debt is paid, there's nothing that can
Separate my heart from your great love

Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me

The Creed

Let's take a moment to think about our faith and about what we believe. We say together the Nicene Creed.

**WE BELIEVE in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray to God, whose saints have witnessed to his glory.

The Church of Christ

May your Church, built on the foundation of the saints, be faithful to the teaching of Christ so that it reflects his likeness. Lord, as you enkindle the

flame of your love in the hearts of the saints, grant to our minds the same faith and power of love; that, as we rejoice in their triumphs, we may profit by their examples.

Lord, kindle the flame of your love in our hearts; in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority

Lord, we pray for those who represent us in government. May they be men and women of integrity, guided by a desire for public service and a love of the truth. May they also be just and compassionate, so that we may be led in ways of righteousness and mercy.

Lord, kindle the flame of your love in our hearts; in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The local community

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. May we not so much seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

Lord, kindle the flame of your love in our hearts; in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Those who suffer

Lord, in the Garden of Gethsemane you shared with everyone who has ever been afraid. You conquered fear with love and returned saying 'Do not be afraid'. In the light of your love death has lost its sting, and so has fear. Lord, may your love be the key that releases us from suffering and fear.

Lord, kindle the flame of your love in our hearts; in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The communion of saints

Lord, give us grace to follow in the footsteps of the saints, as they followed in the footsteps of your holy Son. Keep alive in us the memory of those dear to ourselves whom you have called to yourself; and grant that every remembrance which turns our hearts from things seen to things unseen may lead us always upwards to you, until we come to our eternal rest.

Lord, kindle the flame of your love in our hearts; in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Song – With a prayer you fed the hungry

**WITH A PRAYER You fed the hungry,
with a cry You stilled the storm;
With a look You had compassion
on the desperate and forlorn.
With a touch You healed the leper,
with a shout You raised the dead;
With a word expelled the demons,
with a blessing broke the bread.**

*Love incarnate, love divine,
captivate this heart of mine
till all I do speaks of You.*

**As a sheep before the shearer
you were silent in Your pain;
You endured humiliation
at the hands of those You'd made.
And as hell unleashed its fury
you were lifted on a tree,
crying 'Father God, forgive them,
place their punishment on Me.'**

*Love incarnate, love divine,
captivate this heart of mine
till all I do speaks of You.*

I will feed the poor and hungry,

through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,
your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection
by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will
and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that
he was betrayed,

took bread
and gave you thanks;
he broke it
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord by your cross and resurrection
You have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

And so, Father, calling to mind
his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate
this memorial
of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread
and one cup,
so that we,
in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us so we pray.

**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**

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many,
we are one body,**

because we all share in one bread.

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you.

Eat in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts

by faith with thanksgiving.

The Minister receives the bread and wine after saying these words:

The body of Christ

keep you in eternal life

Amen.

The blood of Christ

keep you in eternal life

Amen.

***After which the congregation
receive communion in silence.***

Song – The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd,

I'll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters,

His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone.

And I will trust in You alone,

For Your endless mercy follows me,

Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,

And He anoints my head with oil,

And my cup, it overflows with joy,

I feast on His pure delights.

And I will trust in You alone.

***And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.***

**And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me,
and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.**

***And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.
....For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.***

After Communion Prayer

Lord of heaven,
in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of
angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:
as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so
may we come to share their joy in heaven,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say together:

**Almighty God,
We thank you for feeding us
with 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.**

Song – The Spirit lives to set us free

**THE SPIRIT LIVES TO SET US FREE,
Walk, walk in the light;
He binds us all in unity,
Walk, walk in the light.**

***Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.***

**Jesus promised life to all,
Walk, walk in the light;
The dead were wakened by His call,
Walk, walk in the light.**

***Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.***

**He died in pain on Calvary,
Walk, walk in the light;
To save the lost like you and me,
Walk, walk in the light.**

***Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.***

**We know His death was not the end,
Walk, walk in the light;
He gave His Spirit to be our friend,**

Walk, walk in the light.

***Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.***

**By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
Walk, walk in the light;
The Father's kindness is revealed,
Walk, walk in the light.**

***Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.***

**The Spirit lives in you and me,
Walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see,
Walk, walk in the light.**

***Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.***

(Repeat)

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 among you
and remain with you always.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.