



**The Parish of St Aidan, Belfast  
Diocese of Connor**

*Serving Christ in the Community*  
**1895 - 2015**

**120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service  
Monday 23 March 2015**

**Service conducted by the Revd Bobbie Moore**

**Preacher: The Bishop of Connor,  
the Rt Revd Alan Abernethy**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. **Stand up, stand up for Jesus,**  
you soldiers of the cross;  
lift high his royal banner,  
it must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory  
his army he shall lead,  
till every foe is vanquished,  
and Christ is Lord indeed.
  
2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
the trumpet call obey;  
forth to the mighty conflict,  
in this his glorious day.  
Be strong in faith and serve him  
against unnumbered foes;  
let courage rise with danger,  
and strength to strength oppose.
  
3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
stand in his strength alone;  
the arm of flesh will fail you,  
ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the gospel armour,  
each piece put on with prayer;  
where duty calls or danger,  
be never wanting there.
  
4. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
the strife will not be long;  
this day the noise of battle,  
the next the victor's song.  
To all who are triumphant  
a crown of life shall be;  
they with the King of Glory  
shall reign eternally.

## ***GREETING and WELCOME***

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

**a light no darkness can quench.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:

**and the day is almost over.**

Even the darkness is not dark for you:

**and the night shines like the day.**

Let your light scatter the darkness:

**and fill your church with your glory.**

## ***PENITENCE***

Brothers and sisters,  
as we prepare to celebrate,  
let us call to mind our sins.

Christ came in humility to share our lives:  
forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people:  
forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:  
forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution – Bishop Alan**

May Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive your sins,  
open your eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen you to do God's will  
and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

## **ACCLAMATION Stand**

The love of God has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**We dwell in him and he in us.**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name,  
**make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to him, sing praises to him,  
**and speak of all his marvellous works.**

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,  
**who was and is and is to come.**

## **PRAISE – CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

### **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

#### **FIRST READING**

Ecclesiastes 3 : A time for everything Girls’ Brigade

#### **Ps. 23**

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 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.

## **SECOND READING:**

Acts 10:34 God has no favourites : Alison and Messy Church Team

## **CHOIR : Sing to the Lord**

**GOSPEL READING.** John 3: 1-21 John Collins, Parish Reader

## **THE SERMON and DEDICATION – Bishop Alan**

### **HYMN**

1. **Now thank we all our God,**  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.
  
2. O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed;  
and free us from all ills,  
in this world and the next.
  
3. All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION LED BY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

## **GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you most humble and  
heartly thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and  
all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,  
and that we show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and  
righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one,  
we pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil,  
for Thine is the Kingdom,  
the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

## HYMN FOR THE OFFERING

1. **I, the Lord of sea and sky,**  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them  
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

### THE DISMISSAL

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself,  
and God our Father,  
who loved us and graciously gave us  
eternal encouragement and good hope,  
encourage our hearts and strengthen us  
in every good deed and word. *Amen 2 Thessalonians 2.16,17*

### THE BLESSING – Bishop Alan

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

- 1      **Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;**  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
  
- 2      Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I thy true heir;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.
  
- 3      Be thou my breast plate, my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might;  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,  
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
  
- 4      Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, through all my days:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
  
- 5      High King of heaven, when the battle is done,  
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun,  
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## GOING OUT TO SERVE GOD

**God of power,  
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and  
worship you now and always.      Amen**

***Everyone is invited for tea and to view the exhibition  
in the parish hall after the service.***