

Parish of Malone
The Church of St John the Evangelist



SUNDAY FIRST: A Service of the Word

Fifth SUNDAY in LENT: Passion Sunday

Sunday 6th April 2025 at 10:30am



THE PREPARATION
THE GREETING

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Let us worship God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***All:* 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.**

Hymn 689

Come, sing praises to the Lord above,
rock of our salvation, Lord of love;
with delight into God's presence move,
for the Lord our God is king!

*God is king above the mountains high,
the ocean deep, the land and sky;
mighty continents and islands lie
within the hollow of God's hand.*

Come to worship him and bow the knee,
praise our shepherd with humility;
humble creatures in his hand are we -
sing the praise of God the king!

God is king...

Hear the story of God's people now,
you with stubborn hearts
who will not bow;
learn what happened long ago and how
God can show you who is king!

God is king...

Forty years God kept the prize away,
make them wander
till they would obey,
exiled all of them until the day
they would honor God as king:

God is king...

Based on the canticle Venite (Psalm 95)

PENITENCE

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence for reflection

In the wilderness we find your grace: you love us with an everlasting love.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

There is none but you to uphold our cause; our sin cries out and our guilt is great.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed; Restore us and we shall know your joy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on you, +forgive you your sins and bring you to
everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:

Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.. **Amen.**

**Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Readings

Isaiah 43: 16-21

- ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;



now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

John 12: 1-8

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 93

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John –
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there On a Cross to die.

Chorus

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black –
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

Chorus

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life

That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me –
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

Chorus

ADDRESS

THE RESPONSE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

Hymn 548

1 Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.

2 Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

3 In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650), Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

PRAYERS

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries,
let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to
show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.
God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may
find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be
welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.
God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among
the nations; for peace where there is war; for food where there is hunger; for
freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love
may bring peace to all your children.
God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Other Prayers may be offered here.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering up all our petitions we pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us:
Our Father

HYMN 226

It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come from heaven,
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:
he chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died,
for love of those who loved him not.
I cannot tell how he would love
a child so weak and full of sin;
his love must be most wonderful,
if he could die my love to win.

I sometimes think about the cross,
and shut my eyes, and try to see
the cruel nails and crown of thorns
and Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love, which, like a fire,
is always burning in his heart.

It is most wonderful to know
his love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.

THE DISMISSAL

**All: God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, and to take up your cross and follow him:

And may Almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Today:

12noon Easter Vestry in the Seaver Hall after refreshments

6:30pm Stainer's Crucifixion Guest conductor: Dr Barry Rose

Services this week

Wednesday 9th 7.30pm Lenten Compline with address in church and on YouTube.
Theme for Compline during Lent 'Favourite Psalms.'

Thursday 10th 10.30am Eucharist (1) with intercessions for those in need.
A cup of coffee is available after this service.

Next Sunday Lent VI. PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Eucharist; 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist with procession & Blessing of Palms

Notices:

- Samples of Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes are available in St John's. Please speak to or email to Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- Parish Lenten Books are on sale in the vestibule. On left.

stjohnsmalone.org

www.malone.connor.anglican.org

Notices: | Sign up for the regular email Update

Contactless Payments The Select Vestry has made a new contactless payment device available in the parish from today and may be used for any donations you'd like to make at social time after the service in the hall.

Giving and Stewardship in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office or secstjohns@btconnect.com. Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.

Organising your wedding in St John's

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.

Hospital Visiting

The Rector would appreciate knowing if parishioners are going into or are in hospital or discharged and is pleased to offer pastoral support.

Safeguarding

The Rector, select vestry and parish leaders are committed to uphold the good practice to the parish's ministry with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Should you have any concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the

Parish panel.

Rev Canon Stephen Fielding 9066 6644

Mrs Patricia Armstrong 07854005699

Dr Anthony Stevens 07710647080



South Belfast Foodbank

Together with Trussell




Urgently needed food items - in order of priority.

Long Life Juice UHT Milk Oats Jams/Honey/Spreads Tinned potato/Instant Mash Pulses (chickpeas/kidney beans/lentils) Coffee/Tea Tinned Fruit Custard/Rice Pudding Shampoo/Shower Gel | Household cleaning items - Fairy liquid / anti-bac spray/ washing powder etc

Donations to the Foodbank can either be placed directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the Foodbank. Or please place items in the baskets in the church entrance vestibule/porch.

Open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm. Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk

Compline every Wednesday
during Lent at 7:30pm
Theme: Favourite Psalms



Lent 2025 in St John's Malone

www.malone.connor.anglican.org
<https://stjohnsmalone.org>



@malonestjohns

Thank you for your generosity | We depend on your gifts of time treasure and talent to keep ministry in St John's running. To make an offering in support of the parish please give at the welcome table near the church door or by scanning this QR code. Please use Gift Aid if you can. To set up regular giving, which helps our ministry planning, please contact Joanne Macartney at treasurer.stjohns@hotmail.com
<https://givealittle.co/c/stjohnsdonate>



READINGS:

Lent moves toward its conclusion, and this week offers us a surprising invitation – to extravagant, celebratory adoration of the Incarnate One. In the midst of this sacrificial journey, this week is both refreshing and deeply challenging, refusing to allow us the luxury of depression, cynicism or hopelessness.

May you know the joy of celebration in the midst of your Lenten fast this week.

READINGS:

Isaiah 43:16-21: The God who has saved Israel in the past invites God's people to believe that a new salvation is coming for them in their exile.

Psalms 126: A psalm celebrating the return of exiles to Jerusalem, and asking for God's grace as they seek to rebuild their lives and their homeland.

Philippians 3:4b-14: Paul, who has every reason to trust in his goodness under the law, explains why he chooses rather to trust in Christ for his righteousness, and how he commits to continually striving to reach the reward that is promised in Christ. (For a deeper reflection on this passage see [this article](#)).

John 12:1-8: In Bethany, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume. Judas, however, is unimpressed. (For a different take on this passage, see [this article](#)).

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

In a rather startling turn, right before Jesus' enters his period of suffering, the Lenten readings move us to a place of joy and celebration. Isaiah promises the exiles a new salvation of God; the psalm celebrates this salvation as it is realised; Paul celebrates the righteousness he has found in Christ, which far surpasses the value of the "goodness" he enjoyed under the law; and Mary celebrates Jesus and her extravagant love for him through this almost embarrassing public display. This can be quite shocking in the midst of the discipline and confession that usually characterises the Lenten period. But, the message is clear – the journey through the desert is a journey toward life and joy, for it leads us to recognise, and own for ourselves, the truth that Christ brings us salvation – life in all its fullness. Mary, Paul and the people of Israel all received this gift with tremendous joy, and wild expressions of love. This passionate worship of the Saviour, is a challenge to us to allow our faith to be not just of the head, but of the heart, and not just of the way of justice, judgment or righteousness, but also of the way of joy, celebration and appreciation. And, although Jesus proclaims Mary's act as a preparation for his burial – with the shadow of the cross looming over this scene – the promise of God's life, and the demonstration that neither evil nor death can extinguish the love of Christ, give cause for celebration even as we prepare to remember the sacrifice.



***Please take this booklet home
with you for the readings,
notices and reference during the
week and recycle.***

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*The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)
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