

# Greenisland Parish Church

## Welcome to our Service.

This is a short service with a reading, reflection, a song or two and prayers. Find a space and time to read, pray and worship. You can listen to and join in with the songs and hymns on You Tube. Just type in the title.

### Opening Prayer

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.



#### **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, and thou  
my true word;

I ever with thee and thou with  
me, Lord;

thou my great Father, I thy true  
son;

thou in me dwelling, and I with  
thee one.

3 Be thou my battle shield,  
sword for my fight;

be thou my dignity, thou my  
delight,

thou my soul's shelter, thou my  
high tower:

raise thou me heaven-ward, O  
Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor man's  
empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now  
and always:

thou and thou only, first in my  
heart,

High King of heaven, my  
treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, my  
victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O  
bright heaven's Sun!

Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## From Today's Gospel Reading, John 11, for the beginning of Passiontide

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 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...So they took away the stone. ...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."

There's a hymn that was written by Frederick Faber in the nineteenth century that begins

Souls of men, why will ye  
scatter  
Like a crowd of frightened  
sheep?  
Foolish hearts, why will ye  
wander  
From a love so true and deep.

Was there ever kinder  
shepherd  
Half so gentle, half so sweet,  
As the Saviour who would have  
us  
Come and gather round his  
feet?

It is true that we are scattered. We can't be with people the way we usually are. But the greater truth is that we can be with friends and

family, neighbours, church family, and work colleagues in more ways than we thought. We can all find some way of keeping on supporting and encouraging one another and looking out for those who may be more vulnerable.

It is true that we may be experiencing fears and anxieties that we've never come up against before, spilling out like napkins from a sprung dispenser. Before we know it, we are overwhelmed. But we can hold on to the greater truth that when we fear we are falling, God is holding on to us. Jesus truly, deeply loves us and nothing can separate us from his love. He is familiar with all our ways and when we seem to be losing our footing he brings us back onto firmer ground. That means keeping our eyes on "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right." We can take the necessary precautions to keep ourselves and others safe. We can pray. And we can perhaps allow some of the fears and anxieties that have taken a grip on us to be loosened, as we hear Jesus' word, spoken to the friends of Lazarus, spoken to us : "take off the grave clothes and let him go."



### **He will hold me fast**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.

Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Let us pray:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

We pray for our hospital and health workers. Thank you, Lord, for their dedication, courage and service. Give them your protection and strength. Help our government to provide them with all the equipment they need. Bless the work of their hands. We pray for all those who are researching treatments and vaccinations for this virus, that they will find a breakthrough; for our leaders that they will manage the ongoing situation effectively; and for anyone who has fallen ill or lost a loved one we ask for your comfort and strength O Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Take a moment to pray for your friends and family, church family and community.

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 power, the kingdom and the glory are yours  
Now and forever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Until next time...