

The Cathedral Church of St Patrick,  
Armagh



**A SERVICE OF  
THANKSGIVING  
FOR  
90 YEARS  
OF THE FEDERATION OF  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
at 3.15 p.m.



Music before the service

At 3.00 p.m. the Organist plays

Pièce d'Orgue in G Major, BWV 572

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

3.10 p.m. The Dean will greet and escort His Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for County Armagh, Mrs Jill Armstrong, to her seat.

3.15 p.m. The Cathedral bell is rung.

*Silence is kept*

*All stand to sing*

## HYMN 643

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought in the day and the 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, and I thy true heir;  
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

3 Be thou my breastplate, 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.

*Please remain standing*

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The Very Reverend Shane Forster, Dean of Armagh, says*

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him: tell of all his marvellous works.

*Psalm 105:1-2*

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

*Micah 6:8*

Grace, mercy and peace be with you all  
**and also with you.**

We gather here this afternoon in this Cathedral Church, on the Hill of Armagh, to give thanks to God for ninety years of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland. Originally brought about to revitalise rural communities, the Women's Institute is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the United Kingdom and exists wherever there is a need. There are currently over three and a half thousand members here in Northern Ireland.

The Women's Institute plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities, occasions to build new skills and forge friendships, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them as individuals and to their local community. The Women's Institute inspires women to make a difference in the world.

As we celebrate the achievements of the organisation and its valuable contribution to society, we reflect on the past ninety years, remembering all those who have faithfully served in the Women's Institute and especially those who have passed from this life and are now in the nearer presence of God.

*Silence*

We meet in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to seek the forgiveness of our sins, and to pray for the needs of the world, that, by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the Lord.  
**All praise to his name.**

PENITENCE

Let us pray.

*Please kneel or sit*

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1: 8,9*

Let us 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.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet  
**and a light upon my path.**

Lord, your word is everlasting:  
**it stands firm for ever in the heavens.**

Let us then receive the word of the Lord,  
**so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.**

## PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

*Please remain seated*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Proverbs 3:5-18

*Read by Margaret Broome,*

*Chairman of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body. Honour the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

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

*Please remain seated as the Choir sings*

ANTHEM: The Lord is my Shepherd  
*(Howard Goodall)*

*Please remain seated*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING: St John 4:5-15**

*Read by Lady Anthony Hamilton*

*President of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland*

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to sing*

**HYMN 81**

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Please remain standing*

## AN ACT OF COMMEMORATION

*A candle is lit and silence is kept as the life and reign of  
Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,*

*a long-standing member of the Women's Institute, is recalled with thanksgiving.*

*Members of the Women's Institute from across the last ninety years, who have now  
passed from this life into the nearer presence of God, are also remembered  
as we give thanks for all that they were and meant to us all.*

*The Dean says*

Merciful Father, King of kings and Lord of lords, we thank you for the life, faith and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and for the love, strength and guidance she received from you. We thank you too for all members of the Women's Institute who have passed from this life into your nearer presence, for the memories we treasure and for the friendship we enjoyed with them. Bring us at the last, with all the faithful, to the full knowledge of your love and the unclouded vision of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please sit while the Choir sings*

ANTHEM: The Lord bless you and keep you  
*(John Rutter)*

## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

*Please kneel or sit*

*A prayer led by Kathleen Verner,  
Vice-Chairman of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland*

Loving God, on this day of thanksgiving and celebration we praise you for all that you are and mean to us. We marvel at your great goodness, the love and care, mercy and forgiveness, you have so faithfully shown to us; the strength, support, guidance and inspiration you have so freely given. We give thanks for the work of the Women's Institute here in Northern Ireland over the last ninety years, for our heritage and shared values, for the opportunity to meet and learn from one another and for all which unites us with other members of the organization across the world.

Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
**hear our prayer.**

*A prayer led by Lynd Roper,  
Executive Member of Gosford Area*

Gracious God, we pray for office holders that you would grant them discernment and grace always to be mindful of the needs of those they are called to serve. We pray for the many Women's Institute initiatives which build and restore relationships within the community. We pray that you will continue to equip our members as they share the love of Christ through acts of compassion, friendship and generous love.

Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
**hear our prayer.**

*A prayer led by Sheelagh McRandal,  
Treasurer of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland*

Holy God, we pray for those who seek to be Christ's loving presence in the world; for those who bring healing and health to the sick and the suffering, for those who work to bring peace in troubled lands, for those who care for prisoners and refugees, that, through those who hear your call, your healing hand may be laid on the nations. We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, remembering especially King Charles and the members of the Royal Family, for the sick, the anxious or disillusioned, for those whose needs we know, and those whose needs are known by you alone, that through your grace, your transforming power may bring hope and confidence.

Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
**hear our prayer.**

*A prayer led by Kirsten Houmann Green,  
President of Garvagh Women's Institute*

Living God, we give thanks for your faithfulness down the generations. Be with us as we journey onwards together. As we look forward with faith for all that is to come, help us to build a future together which will enable our work to flourish. Guide our steps as we follow your path. May we continue to enrich community life by what we are and what the Women's Institute stands for, now and in the days to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We gather our thoughts and prayers together in the words in which Christ taught his disciples to pray, saying:

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**



*Please stand to sing*

## HYMN 80

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,  
morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Please sit*

THE ADDRESS: Lady Eames OBE  
*former Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union*

*Please stand to sing*

## HYMN 361

*(During the singing of the hymn a collection will be received  
for the Cathedral and Women's Institute)*

1 Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who, from our mother's arms  
hath 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.

*Please remain standing*

#### ACT OF DEDICATION

As we come to the end of this Thanksgiving Service, let us dedicate ourselves anew to the service of God and our neighbour.

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.**

#### THE BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

#### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

##### Toccata

*Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)*



*Organist: Dr Stephen Timpany, M.A., A.R.C.O*

*Material in this service*

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