



THE UNITED PARISH

Christ Church & St John's



**Service of Thanksgiving  
to God for the faith and witness of  
Queen Elizabeth**

**Sunday 5th June 2022**

“I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it”.

### **Princess Elizabeth 21<sup>st</sup> April 1947**

“Pray for me...that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life”

### **Queen Elizabeth II-(Christmas Broadcast 1952)**

"Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God. Like others of you who draw inspiration from your own faith, I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.”

### **Her Majesty The Queen (Christmas Message, 2002)**

## Introduction

Beloved in Christ, we have come together to offer our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, and to give thanks for the seventy year reign of Elizabeth our Queen.

We pray for her continued health and wisdom, that by the power of the Holy Spirit she may continue to give herself to the service of God.

We commit ourselves afresh to serve our community and our nation that the earth may be filled with God's justice, love and peace.

## Opening Worship

### Confession

As we prepare to confess our sins, may we be enlightened by the words of Queen Elizabeth, from her 1984 Christmas message.

*'Above all, we must retain the child's readiness to forgive, with which we are all born and which it is all too easy to lose as we grow older. Without it, divisions between families, communities and nations remain unbridgeable. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to live up to the standards of behaviour and tolerance which we are so eager to teach them.... We should work to heal old wounds and to abandon prejudice and suspicion.'*

*'Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families; it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.'*

**Merciful God, we approach you asking for forgiveness,  
For healing and reconciliation  
To once again feel the power of your Love.  
As individuals and as a nation we have tempted fate.  
We have not simply done justice and loved kindness.  
We have stretched our grasp with greed.  
We have protected our privacy with isolationism.  
We have ravaged your creation with entitlement.**

**Forgive us Lord.**

**As we are forgiven, may we,  
with the readiness of a child, forgive others.  
Those who have caused division and pain  
Those who spread intolerance and prejudice  
Those who destroy that which we try to build up.  
Open our hearts to abandon prejudice and suspicion.  
As we teach our children tolerance, may we be tolerant.  
Use us to restore harmony  
That all may humbly walk with you  
And feel the power of your love.  
This we pray in the name of your son, our saviour, Jesus  
Christ. Amen**

**Assurance of grace** adopted from *Psalms 85*

God of all, how kind you are to your people, for you forgive our sins and are gentle with our shortcomings. You hold back your displeasure and your anger never lasts for long. It is what we need, this ever-present love and your saving hand when trouble comes.

We are listening to what you say, especially your promise that peace will come when we turn from our foolish ways. Then Love and Loyalty will hold hands, Justice and Peace will embrace. Even as we turn to find you, we find assurance knowing that you are looking upon us now.

## **Kid's Song**

**Reading: Ephesians 6:1-9**

**Sermon**

**Worship**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect**

**Almighty God,  
whose son Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace;  
Grant that, as we celebrate the earthly reign  
of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,  
so through her example of faith and self-giving  
your people may come to know the fullness of your power  
and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

### The Lord's Prayer

### Act of Dedication

As we come to the end of this thanksgiving service in this time of Jubilee, let us dedicate ourselves anew to the service of God, our nation and our world.

**Lord of our lives and God of our salvation,  
grant that we may live by your word,  
remember with thanksgiving**

**Her Majesty's example of dedication and service,  
and commit ourselves afresh to serve our local  
community, nation and world for the building up of your  
kingdom; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### Worship

### Dismissal

May God crown you with glory and righteousness, that you may obtain the crown of an everlasting kingdom by the gift of him whose kingdom endures forever; and the blessing...

We leave with the joy of Christ in our hearts.

**Help us, Lord, to share your joy.**

We leave with the peace of God in our hearts.

**Help us, Lord, to share your peace.**

We leave with the strength of the Spirit in our hearts.

**Help us, Lord, to share your peace.**

# News For Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Forthcoming Events

### **Praise & Picnic In The Park Sunday 5th June**

The churches in Ballynure will be hosting a Praise & Picnic in the Park. Bring your own picnic, salads, and drinks. Hotdogs & Burgers will be provided. Our worship commences at 4pm and food will be provided after.

### **Youth Fellowship Sunday 5th June**

Youth Fellowship are going to Belfast Activity Centre for a night of caving and rock climbing.

For P7 & above, meeting at St John's 6.00pm. Further details from Andrew Brannigan on 07950 846621 or book via <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/youth-childrens-events/>

### **Thank You Night Friday 17th June @7.00pm**

We want to recognise and thank everyone who serves and helps in different ministries across our parish. Therefore, if you are a leader or helper, please come along to the Rectory on Friday evening 17th June for food & fellowship. To help with numbers for catering please let us know you are coming at the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/up0ff8kg>

### **Leaders' Spiritual Retreat – 14<sup>th</sup> June**

As part of Jonny's prayer that we all go deeper in our walk with God, he is facilitating a 1day retreat for anyone involved in leading and serving within the parish. This will be at the Benedictine Monastery in Rostrevor on Tuesday 14th June.

**Advise Jonny if you are interested in attending.** These retreats will run during the year so don't worry if you don't get on the first one as numbers for each are limited. The aim of the retreat is to slow down and refocus on Jesus in our lives.

## **Pastoral**

Very sadly Josephine Arrighi died last week. Please keep her daughter Paula and the rest of the family circle in your prayers that they may have the comfort & peace of the Holy Spirit at this sad time.

**Prayer Warriors:** Summer Edition of Prayer Booklet in both Churches or from your pastoral visitor.

## **Children & Youth**

### **Holiday Bible Club**

This will be running from the **15th-19th August**. We are partnering with the 'Play it by ear' Drama Company.

### **Summer Madness**

**Running from the 1st to 5th July. Cost £50- bargain!**  
Bookings and more information can be found by using the following: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/youth-childrens-events/>

### **Confirmation**

If you have any teenagers in the family thinking of confirmation ( Nov2022) have a word with Revd Jonny.

## **Services During June**

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

10.00am & 11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th ( Father's Day) Sunday 26th (Family Fun Day)