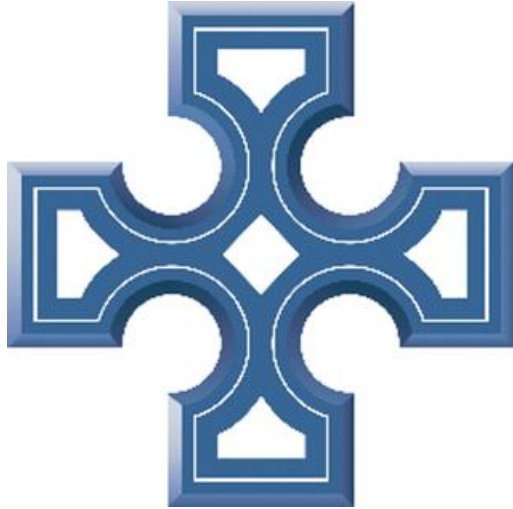


***Free to shape our own future***



***A Celebration  
of Holy Communion  
to mark 150 years  
since the disestablishment of the  
Church of Ireland***



# The Gathering of God's People

## THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you all  
**and also with you.**

**Opening Hymn: CH 528** *"The Church's one foundation"*  
or **T&P 85** *"Lift the banner, Church of Erin"*  
or another suitable hymn

## INTRODUCTION

*The minister may introduce the liturgy in these or other suitable words. The section headed "The Preamble and Declaration" may be omitted or summarised.*

Today we remember some important events in the life of the Church of Ireland — an act which disestablished the church in 1869 and made it independent of the Church of England, followed by the adoption of its constitution by a general convention in 1870. We thank God for what has been achieved over the last one hundred and fifty years and we look forward in faith to what God has in store for the Church of Ireland. We pray that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it may continue to witness to God's saving power in Ireland and play a valuable role within the Anglican Communion and in the Universal Church.

In 1869, the Westminster Parliament passed an Irish Church Act which put an end to the establishment of the Church of Ireland and provided for the dissolution of the union between the Churches of England and Ireland from 1st January 1871.

The Act enabled the holding of general synods or conventions with powers to frame constitutions and regulations for the general management and good government of the Church of Ireland and property and affairs thereof. It also envisaged the creation of a

body to hold property on behalf of the Church of Ireland (now referred to as the Representative Church Body).

Disestablishment terminated both state support and parliament's role in the governance of the Church of Ireland and took into government ownership much church property. Church of Ireland representation in the House of Lords also ceased.

### **THE PREAMBLE AND DECLARATION**

A general convention was held in 1870 at which a Constitution was adopted. The Preamble and Declaration read as follows:

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

Amen: Whereas it hath been determined by the Legislature that on and after the 1st day of January, 1871, the Church of Ireland shall cease to be established by law; and that the ecclesiastical law of Ireland shall cease to exist as law save as provided in the "Irish Church Act, 1869", and it hath thus become necessary that the Church of Ireland should provide for its own regulation:

We, the archbishops and bishops of this the Ancient Catholic and Apostolic Church of Ireland, together with the representatives of the clergy and laity of the same, in General Convention assembled in Dublin in the year of our Lord God one thousand eight hundred and seventy, before entering on this work, do solemnly declare as follows:

I

1. The Church of Ireland doth, as heretofore, accept and unfeignedly believe all the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as given by inspiration of God, and containing all things necessary to salvation; and doth continue to profess the faith of Christ as professed by the Primitive Church.

2. The Church of Ireland will continue to minister the doctrine, and sacraments, and the discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath

commanded; and will maintain inviolate the three orders of bishops, priests or presbyters, and deacons in the sacred ministry.

3. The Church of Ireland, as a reformed and Protestant Church, doth hereby reaffirm its constant witness against all those innovations in doctrine and worship, whereby the Primitive Faith hath been from time to time defaced or overlaid, and which at the Reformation this Church did disown and reject.

## II

The Church of Ireland doth receive and approve The Book of the Articles of Religion, commonly called the Thirty-nine Articles, received and approved by the archbishops and bishops and the rest of the clergy of Ireland in the synod holden in Dublin, A.D. 1634; also, The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, according to the use of the Church of Ireland; and the Form and Manner of Making, Ordaining and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests and Deacons, as approved and adopted by the synod holden in Dublin, A.D. 1662, and hitherto in use in this Church. And this Church will continue to use the same, subject to such alterations only as may be made therein from time to time by the lawful authority of the Church.

## III

The Church of Ireland will maintain communion with the sister Church of England, and with all other Christian Churches agreeing in the principles of this Declaration; and will set forward, so far as in it lieth, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people.

## IV

The Church of Ireland, deriving its authority from Christ, Who is the Head over all things to the Church, doth declare that a General Synod of the Church of Ireland, consisting of the archbishops and bishops, and of representatives of the clergy and laity, shall have chief legislative power therein, and such administrative power as

may be necessary for the Church, and consistent with its episcopal constitution.

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

**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.**

### THE BEATITUDES

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are those who weep,  
for they shall be consoled.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice,  
for they shall be satisfied.  
**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.

**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.

**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called the children of God.

**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of justice,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

## **PENITENCE**

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate,  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all,  
and your mercy is over all your kingdom.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name,  
and speak of the glory of your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Hymn of Praise: 318** *"Father, Lord of all creation"*  
or **T&P 15** *"Bless the Lord, O my soul"*  
or another suitable hymn

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The Collect of the Day is followed by this prayer:*

O almighty God,  
who in thy providence didst choose thy servant Patrick  
to be the apostle of the Irish people,  
that he might bring those  
who were wandering in darkness and error  
to the true light and knowledge of thee;  
Grant us so to walk in that light,  
that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. **Amen.**



## Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

### ***The First Reading: Isaiah 43: 15-21 (or an appointed Lectionary Reading)***

I am the Lord, your Holy One,  
the Creator of Israel, your King.  
Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
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.  
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,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God.***

### ***The Psalm: Psalm 34: 1-8 (or an appointed Lectionary Psalm)***

I will bless the Lord at all times; •  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.  
**My soul shall glory in the Lord; •**  
**let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the Lord with me; •  
let us exalt his name together.

**I sought the Lord and he answered me •  
and delivered me from all my fears.**

Look upon him and be radiant •  
and your faces shall not be ashamed.

**This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me •  
and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him •  
and delivers them.

**O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; •  
blessed is the one who trusts in him.**

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.*

***The Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 1-10 (or the appointed Lectionary Epistle)***

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner',  
and

'A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn: CH 492** "Ye servants of God, your master proclaim"  
or **T&P 152** "This little light of mine"  
or another suitable hymn

**The Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20 (or the appointed Lectionary Gospel)**

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew chapter 28 beginning at verse 16*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

## THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*One of the following forms of prayers may be used or other suitable prayers:*

Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for the life of faith in the weave of the world, for the flame of courage in the heart of the migrant and for the colour of creation in the exuberance of nature. Father, give us grace **as we pray to you in faith.**

As your children, we seek to be your servants on earth committed to the dignity of all creation, loving our neighbours as we love you and as you equip us to love ourselves. Son, give us grace **as we pray to you in hope.**

Give us hearts to find you, minds to question you and hearts do your work of mission and ministry, of justice and healing within and without the church. Holy Spirit, give us grace **as we pray to you in love.**

Commission afresh the Church of Ireland in a time of renewed response to an ever-changing world. Keep us true to our calling, free to shape our own future, respectful of our inherited traditions as we celebrate with others one hundred and fifty years of Disestablishment and beyond. Holy Trinity, give us grace **as we pray to you in faith, in hope and in love.**

This we ask in the truth that sets us free and in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*or*

Almighty and merciful God,  
who in days of old gave to this land the blessing of your holy Church;  
Withdraw not, we pray, your favour from us,  
but so correct what is amiss,

and supply what is lacking,  
that we may more and more bring forth fruit to your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour,  
the Prince of Peace;  
Give us grace seriously to take to heart the great dangers  
we are in by our unhappy divisions.  
Take away all hatred and prejudice,  
and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord:  
that, as there is but one Body, and one Spirit,  
and one hope of our calling, one Lord,  
one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all,  
so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul,  
united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity,  
and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings,  
with your most gracious favour,  
and further us with your continual help;  
that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you,  
we may glorify your holy name,  
and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
come in power and bring new life to the Church;  
renew us in love and service,  
and enable us to be faithful to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

With thanksgiving for the past,  
with joy in the present,  
and with hope for the future  
we celebrate 150 years of disestablishment.

**Merciful Father,  
accept these our prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.  
The Spirit of truth abides with you and he will be in you.  
If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

*John 8: 32; John 14: 17; Galatians 5: 25*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn: 398** *“Alleluia! sing to Jesus”*  
or **T&P 9** *“As we gather at your table”*  
or another suitable hymn

## **Celebrating at the Lord’s Table**

### **AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

How can I repay the Lord  
for all the benefits he has given to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

*Psalms 116: 12-14*

### **THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Prayer 1

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God,  
at all times and in all places

it is right to give you thanks and praise:

To this land you sent the glorious gospel.

You caused it to grow and flourish in the lives of men and women,  
throughout the ages, filled with your Holy Spirit,  
building up your Church in Ireland.

And so with all your people,  
with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Father,  
the creator and sustainer of all things;  
you made us in your own image,  
male and female you created us;  
even when we turned away from you,  
you never ceased to care for us,  
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving your only begotten Son to become man  
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:  
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world:



he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death  
until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat,  
this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup;  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we do as Christ your Son commanded:  
**we remember his passion and death,**  
**we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,**  
**and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,  
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit  
that we may be made one in your holy Church  
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,  
that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say  
**Our Father, who art in heaven.....**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
**We being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

### THE COMMUNION

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God,  
who has taken away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## Going Out as God's People

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear us, most merciful God,  
for that part of the Church  
which through your servant Patrick you planted in our land;  
that it may hold fast the faith entrusted to the saints  
and in the end bear much fruit to eternal life:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food  
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**Benediction Hymn: CH 361** *“Now thank we all our God”*  
or **T&P 158** *“We shall go out with hope of resurrection”*  
or another suitable hymn

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

The Lord has blessed those who have been members of the Church of Ireland over the last one hundred and fifty years. As we look back with thanksgiving and look forward in hope, let us dedicate ourselves to his service.

**Loving God, who guided our ancestors,  
we offer you our thanks  
for all those who have served  
and worked in this branch of Christ’s Church  
during the last one hundred and fifty years.  
May we continue to see, by faith,  
the needs of those around us  
and the needs of those who shall come after us,  
and do all that is possible to witness in word and deed  
to the riches of life with Christ.  
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

God,  
who in days of old gave to this land  
the benediction of his holy Church,  
fill you with his grace to walk faithfully in the steps of the saints  
and to bring forth fruit to his glory:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
in the name of Christ. Amen.**