

### Notices

- Church Social Evening – from 7pm, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October at Mulbarton Social Club
  - Next Communion Service on 23<sup>rd</sup>, NOT next week

### Opening Response

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Song: Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say,  
"I am strong."  
Let the poor say,  
"I am rich  
Because of what the Lord  
has done for us"

### Confession

Lord, you are Lord of creation and the giver of all good gifts;  
forgive our hoarding and fearfulness.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

You provide enough for our needs and the needs of others;  
forgive our lack of trust in you.

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

You bless the generosity of your people; forgive our lack of faith.  
Release in us a new freedom and an outpouring of praise and thanksgiving to you.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

### Special Prayer for Today

God our Father, in love you are always giving to us;  
you gave life in creation

and hope to your people Israel;  
you have given us all things in Jesus  
and your presence among us  
through the gift of your Holy Spirit.  
Open our hearts to enjoy all you have given  
and our hands to share generously of what is yours;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### Mark 4:1-20 (NIV)

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. <sup>2</sup> He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>3</sup> "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

<sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."  
<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.

<sup>11</sup> He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables <sup>12</sup> so that,  
"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,  
and ever hearing but never understanding;  
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? <sup>14</sup> The farmer sows the word. <sup>15</sup> Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. <sup>16</sup> Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.

<sup>17</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>18</sup> Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup> but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

#### 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows

generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

<sup>9</sup> As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

<sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### Song: All I once held dear

All I Once Held Dear, Built My Life Upon  
All This World Reveres, And Wars To Own  
All I Once Thought Gain  
I Have Counted Loss  
Spent And Worthless Now,  
Compared To This

Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You,  
There Is No Greater Thing  
You’re My All, You’re The Best  
You’re My Joy, My Righteousness  
And I Love You, Lord

Now My Heart’s Desire  
Is To Know You More  
To Be Found In You And Known As Yours  
To Possess By Faith  
What I Could Not Earn  
All-Surpassing Gift Of Righteousness

Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You,  
There Is No Greater Thing  
You’re My All, You’re The Best  
You’re My Joy, My Righteousness

And I Love You, Lord

Oh, To Know The Power  
Of Your Risen Life  
And To Know You In Your Sufferings  
To Become Like You  
In Your Death, My Lord  
So With You To Live And Never Die

Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You,  
There Is No Greater Thing  
You're My All, You're The Best  
You're My Joy, My Righteousness  
And I Love You, Lord

### Talk – “Giving in Grace”

#### A Prayer of Response

**Heavenly Father,  
give grace to us,  
the living stones who form your Church,  
to reflect prayerfully at this special time  
on our love for you and our neighbour.  
Make us mindful of the many gifts  
you bestow upon us.  
A Prayer of Response  
We ask that your Holy Spirit  
will inspire and direct us  
in our choice of giving,  
remembering that we are only giving back  
that which is truly yours.  
Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge  
according to your will.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who has given all  
that we might live.  
Amen.**

#### Song: Take my life

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

#### **A declaration of faith in God**

**We believe in God the Father,  
who reveals his love to us in Christ.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who pours out God's Holy Spirit on us.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who teaches us God's truth.**

**We believe in one God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

#### **Our Local Context**

- Over 800 local contacts, through various points of connection, with whom we have shared the journey
  - Local support fund & local partnerships
  - Overseas commitments: Bukavu & Nepal
  - Diocesan commitments: 2023 Increasing 4%
- Handling the shortfall: reserve management; underpaying parish share; cutting costs
  - More info to follow...

**Song: This is my desire**

## Song: I will worship

### Sharing Journeys:

#### Our Prayers

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Song: Be Thou my vision

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

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

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

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

#### Closing Blessing

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**