



Returning to our Roots.

Corrymeela Dedication Service 2020

Gathering Songs

Led by *Voices Together Community Choir*

This is why we sing

Words and music by Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)

He never failed me yet

Words and music by Robert Ray (b. 1946)

Welcome

The Candle, the Bible and the Cross

One: In the beginning,
when it was very dark,
God said “Let there be light.”

All: And there was light.
(a sign of light – a candle – is lit)

One: In the beginning,
when it was very quiet
the Word was with God.

All: And what God was, the Word was.
(a sign of the word – the Bible – is opened)

One: When the time was right,
God came among us, as one of us.

All: Jesus came among us, as one of us.
(a turf cross – is placed on the table)

Opening Hymn

'Take this Moment, Sign and Space'

Take this moment, sign and space;
take my friends around;
here among us make the place
where your love is found.

Take the time to call my name,
take the time to mend
who I am and what I've been,
all I've failed to tend.

Take the tiredness of my days,
take my past regret,
letting your forgiveness touch,
all I can't forget.

Take the little child in me,
scared of growing old;
help *him/her* here to find *his/her* worth
made in Christ's own mould.

Take my talents, take my skills,
take what's yet to be;
let my life be yours, and yet,
let it still be me.

Words: John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)

Music: *Take this Moment* by John L. Bell

(Remain standing)

Gathering as a Community

One: Where two or three are gathered in your name

All: Sometimes we wonder if it is the right name, or if they are the right kind of two or three.

But where two or three are gathered

**You gather with them,
whether we would or not.**

And where two or three are gathered

in the name of goodness

**we are asked to lay aside suspicions
and consider ourselves to be neighbours.**

We sometimes wonder whether

gathering with some will cause us to lose others.

**But we know that we are called to courage,
and courage comes from the heart.**

Those gathered here believe all kinds of things.

We are not frightened of our differences.

**Or, rather, we try not to be frightened of
our differences -- those inside us and those
inside others.**

Gathered here,

in community with one another and with you:

**We know that sometimes we love each
other, sometimes we resist each other,
sometimes we hurt each other,
sometimes we heal each other.**

And gathered here,
in community with one another and with you:
**We are called to love: to listen,
to seek to understand, to work hard;
to share stories and be changed by stories;
to know each other's names,
to meet, to forgive, to practice hospitality.**

We gather on land that has known deep strife.
**We are called to the work of reconciliation:
in our homes, our friendships,
and our relationship with the earth;
in our community, our politics,
and all our great endeavours.**

Gathered together in a household of belonging
**we know that households are places of
nurture and rivalry, places of rest and
unrest.**

Gathered together, we assert a great truth:
**We are all made by Love for Love.
And we find God, the source of all
being, in our relationships with one
another.**

We commit ourselves to this.
We commit ourselves to this.

Silence

*The prayer-bell is rung and all sit in silence for a moment to
consider our complicity in the fractures of our world.*

Confession

One: Acknowledging that even our best intentions can be harmful, let us confess our wrongs so that we might all live more rightly.

All: **For what we have done, and for what we have left undone, we ask forgiveness.**

For judging others for what we are guilty of ourselves, we ask forgiveness.

For refusing the grace that others extend, we ask forgiveness.

For our failure to take on what we know needs fixing, we ask forgiveness.

For the folly in believing we can fix things on our own, we ask forgiveness.

For failing in our commitments, we ask forgiveness.

For the strength to recommit ourselves to you, we ask for grace.

One: Our forgiving God welcomes us into God's own being. We find healing in our shared brokenness. And we find life in the shelter of each other.

All: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Introduction of Provisional Members for 2020

Provisional members and their sponsors come forward. Our membership secretary reads out brief introductions for each new provisional member (found at the end of this booklet).

We save our hearty applause for the end.

All stand for an Alleluia before the Gospel reading

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Words: liturgical

Music: traditional South African

A reading from the Gospel of John (ch. 13: vv. 60-70)

After listening to Jesus talk about himself as the Bread of Life, many of his disciples said,

“This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

Aware that they were grumbling about this, Jesus said,

“Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.”

For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say,

“This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

*From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. So Jesus asked the Twelve,
“Do you also want to go away?”*

*Simon Peter answered him,
“Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
We have come to believe and to know
that you are the Holy One of God.”*

This is part of the story of God.
Thanks be to God.

A Very Short Sermon

Members’ Dedication

The membership secretary steps forward to report on those who have become Associate members, those who have moved to the category of Friend, and those who have stepped away from any formal affiliation.

One: Let us remember them now in our prayers.

All: May the Spirit’s blessing be theirs, on their road, on their journey, guiding them, cherishing them. Amen.

The membership secretary presents the names of those unable to be here today, but who are re-dedicating themselves to the community from afar.

One: Living God, may they not fail you.

All: Living God, may we not fail them.

The membership secretary presents the names of the individuals who have completed their provisional period and now wish to join Corrymeela as members.

One: I therefore ask Corrymeela members, in the name of Christ, do you receive and welcome them as fellow members of the Corrymeela Community?

Members: We welcome you as members of the Corrymeela Community.

Leader: Those who are committing to become or to continue as full members of the community for the next year please stand as you are able as we say the statement of commitment together.

Statement of Commitment

As a community of Christians drawn from many traditions, we:

AFFIRM our faith in the reconciling power of God in Jesus Christ;

CELEBRATE the promise of life;

CONFESS our own responsibility for the destructive conflicts in our society;

BELIEVE that we have been called to seek a deeper understanding of our faith;

SURRENDER ourselves to the Spirit of Jesus to overcome our own divisions and make us instruments of His peace;

COMMIT ourselves to work for a society whose

priorities are justice, mutual respect, the participation of all, concern for the vulnerable and the stranger, stewardship of resources, and care for Creation;

**AGREE to pray regularly for each other,
to join in the worship of the community,
to give time to the life and work of the community,
to care for and support each other,
to live out our commitment in our daily lives,
and to give, according to our ability,
to the funds of the community;**

**And WISH, through the power of the Spirit,
to walk the way of the gospel together.**

A bell is rung as we keep silent. And then we sit.

The Distribution of Promises

*We invite all present —members, staff, friends, or visitors —
to come forward to receive a blessing for our journey.*

Chant during Distribution

The Lord is my song,
the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song,
the Lord is my praise:
God, the well-spring of life.

Words: Taizé community
Music: Jacques Berthier (1923 – 1994)

Staff Dedication:

The Leader invites permanent and voluntary staff who wish to make a dedication to stand.

Staff: For the coming year we commit ourselves to the work of Corrymeela in the healing of past hurts and the overcoming of divisions in this land. We commit ourselves to be instruments of peace in the world.

All: Holy God, bless our staff and the volunteers in their life and work in the coming year. We commit ourselves to supporting them in our partnership of peace building. Amen.

Prayers:

Let us come together in prayer.

We give thanks for the witness of Corrymeela, and for the thousands of people who have made Corrymeela what it is. They were and are people of bravery, pain and truth; people who shared their story; people who offered a hand of friendship even when their hand was shaking. We honour them and we give thanks for them. We pray for every person who has come through our door and changed us by being themselves. May they be blessed.

God in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who carry the pain of the past. In our violent conflict here many lost their lives and many live who are still affected by that loss. May we listen to and learn from their lives, their truth and their witness. May we all admit our responsibility in shaping a better present and a better future.

God in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We think of those in these days caught in the madness of war – victims of others' greed and fear, people made vulnerable by the abuses of power. We think of homelands made unliveable because of unnecessary climate change and unchanging policies. May we turn toward these challenges and may change happen where change is needed.

God in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

In a moment of sadness, but with thanks for lives well lived, we remember former members Alan Taylor and Ernie Wilson. We pray for the comfort and support of their families. We also remember all those – here and afar – who have recently become bereaved. [*Silence*]

God in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer.**

In a year that has seen illness and renewal, the end of one leader's tenure and the beginning of another, we acknowledge the strength of those who serve and also our limits as human beings and as a human organisation. Bless and keep safe Kate and Pádraig, John and Tim, Alex and Trevor, the members of Council, staff members who have left our employment; and all those whose lives are affected by our life together.

God in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer.**

We give thanks for the gift of our land, for the fertile soil of Ireland. We give thanks for the cultures, languages and stories abounding here. And we pray that we can be wise custodians of this earth and good citizens in this society. May our leaders be led in a spirit of wisdom and truth so that justice can be done.

God in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May all of us here find the courage to tell the truth in our lives. May we tell the truth and act on the truth when we hear voices of sectarianism or exclusion. May we tell the truth and act on the truth when we see scapegoating. May we tell the truth and be changed by the truth when we are complicit with divisions and decisions that harm.

God in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

The bell will ring as we consider our silent prayers.

God in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Chant for the Close of Our Prayers

Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say 'no'.

Traditional South African song

Very Brief Announcements

Sending Hymn

'You, Whose Breathing Fills our Bodies'

You, whose breathing fills our bodies,
you, whose pulse the worlds obey,
tune our minds to heed your rhythm,
known along the starry way.

Swing the nations to your measure,
turn our hatred into song;
thrill us with your healing music,
ending discord, righting wrong.

You, whose order rules the atom,

you, whose law propels the sea,
bring the nations drowned in discord
closer to your harmony.
God of beauty, heal our sickness,
God of love, our fractures mend;
foster unity that binds us,
rich to poor and foe to friend.

You, who light with heaven's glory
leaf and lake and cloud and star,
light the hearts of all to justice,
bring to faith those now afar.
Pour your tender love upon us,
you who fill both souls and space,
turn us into sons and daughters,
lifting up the human race.

Words: Ray Simpson

Music: *Blaenwern*, William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)

Benediction

Recessional (with signs of peace):
'Praise His Name'

Words and music: Keith Hampton (b. 1954)

We move to St. Bride's Halls for a cuppa.

**The retiring offering is for
the Davey Fund,
which supports young peace-makers.**

Provisional Members for 2020

Lisa Albrecht came to Corrymeela as a volunteer in 2015 and was the Programme Intern in 2016-2018. She currently lives in Belfast, where she is working for Bryson Care on a big peace project, as well as building up her hours as a mediator. Lisa's sponsor is *Iulia Picu*.

Alexandra Bell grew up in North Antrim, but she is a long-time resident of Belfast. She teaches at Lagan College. Alex has a love of languages, singing and wildlife. Her father was part of a group of students who visited Germany with Ray Davey in the 1950s. Alex's sponsor is *Caroline Orr*.

John & Mary Braithwaite have been Friends of Corrymeela, and members of various Cell groups, for many years. Mary was Musical Director of the Corrymeela singers when it closed, and now sings with Voices Together. She was a Social Worker until retirement. John is a Presbyterian minister now retired. They have 3 married sons and 6 grandchildren. John's sponsor is *John Hunter*; Mary's sponsor is *Pauline McCann*

Rachel Brew grew up in a Presbyterian manse in Northern Ireland but now lives in a Church of Ireland Rectory in Howth, where she is involved in ecumenical groups. Rachel took part in several Corrymeela Workcamps and met her husband, Kevin, when she was a Corrymeela Volunteer (1973-74). She has taught Maths in a wide variety of Primary and Secondary Schools and also spent 13 years teaching in the Prison Service in Northern Ireland. Rachel's sponsor is *David Godfrey*.

Laura Coulter lives in Belfast with her husband, Stephen, and they have three grown up children who all live nearby. She has been working in the areas of peacebuilding and mediation for many years in Northern Ireland and further afield, including Nepal where she worked from 2015-17. Laura's sponsor is *Debs Erwin*.

Gordon Gray is a Presbyterian Minister, retired and living in Stranocum, Ballymoney. Ordained in 1960 in Fisherwick, Belfast, he served as Minister in Belvoir Park (new church development), Presbyterian all-Ireland Youth Officer, and First Lisburn. A Founder Member of Corrymeela, inspired by Rev Ray Davey, he has had wide ecumenical experience, from local to World Council of Churches' levels. Gordon's sponsor is *Maeve Walsh*.

Keith & Sophie Irwin live in Castlerock and have 2 boys, Isaac (21) and Levi (19), who are both at uni. Keith is a psychotherapist, working mainly in the areas of relationship and addiction. Sophie works in HR and business coaching. Their sponsors are *David & Lynda Gibson*.

Dong Jin Kim is Irish Research Council and Marie Curie Fellow at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin. He is also a policy advisor for Korean Peacebuilding and Development NGOs, and was a scholar in residence at Corrymeela until the end of 2019. Before moving into academic life, he served as a chaplain in the Korean Army. Jin's sponsor is *Duncan Morrow*.

Jill & Andy Magennis have a long history with Corrymeela. Jill, a former schools worker at Corrymeela, is currently a Lecturer at Stranmillis University College & on the verge of completing her PhD in Peace Building and Diversity in the Early Years. Andy, a previous Long Term Volunteer, is a trained Youth Worker and is currently a Centre Based Programme Worker with Corrymeela at the Ballycastle site. Their sponsor is *Yvonne Naylor*.

Roisin Marshall is married to James with four children and two grandchildren. She works as Chief Executive of The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and believes passionately in reconciliation through education. Roisin's sponsor is *Laurie Randall*.

Glenise Morgan grew up in N Ireland, studied in Dublin (TCD) and then moved to England. She had a career in University administration and was also a local councillor in Bristol for 7 years. She and her husband retired to Ballycastle about 5 years ago and she has been volunteering at Corrymeela for almost a year. Glenise's sponsor is *Eleanor Duff*.

Sean OBaoill is a mediator, youth worker and conflict resolution trainer working with the YMCA in Newcastle. For over 30 years he has been involved in peacebuilding through the Peace People, Mediation NI, the Parades Commission and TIDES. He participated in Corrymeela's Summerfests and was part of the Seed group. He has two teenage children, Cathal and Niamh, and lives at the edge of Tollymore forest at the foot of the Mourne. Sean's sponsor is *Trevor Williams*.

These individuals join **Margaret Fawcett, Karen Godfrey, John McNeill Scott, Veena & Gavin O'Sullivan, Dave & Lorraine Thompson**, and **Keith Wysner** -- all of whom are opting for a second year of provisional membership.

We rejoice in how we become more of what we are meant to be with the inclusion of these individuals.

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