


Prepare the way of the Lord

***Church of the Ascension of the Lord
Balally***

6th December 2020

Violinist – Sarah Lane
Harpist – Mary O’Donnell
Vocalist – Kerrie O’Connor

Opening Hymn

 **Let all mortal flesh keep silence**
(text: Moultrie, tune: Picardy)

 Céad Glóire (Trad.)

A hundred glories to the Father, Whose name is greatly revered, Powerful in the heavens, and greatly spoken of in the world. Created and fashioned angels resplendent, luminous, shining spotless, stainless, sinless Without tarnish – like the sun. Who made skies and clouds, set the high lamp of the moon stars shining nightly in the sky. Who filled river and torrent miraculously with waves and the expansive tidal ocean – full of fish

*Again - A hundred glories to the Father, forever to Your name. Commanding and deserving supremacy, fame and authority. Filled the forests with trees: buoyant, blooming, colourful With birds singing sweetly on each branch. How meagre the bees – and yet to whom such a lovely way of life was granted. Which even the smartest could not acquire. When the sun is shining they gather their honey:
A store to be spent carefully in winter.*

Understand sinner, and learn from the bees Who gather their honey in the valley of berries And the saints who were poor – who neither hoarded nor sinned And did not store gold in the vaults of this earth. Observe the example of the Child, who descended from the heavens out of love for us all. When He was born in the donkey’s cold manger Poor and lowly, without equality, without wonder.

Reading 2 (LK 1: 26-38)

🎵 Gabriel's Message
(Baring/Gould)

🎵 Maria Walks Amid The Thorns
(Arr. Benedictines of Mary)

Reading 3 (MT 1:18-22, 24)

🎵 Te Joseph Celebrant
(Chant/Ravanello)

*Thee Joseph, let the hosts of heaven
celebrate
Thee let all the choirs of Christendom
resound
Who famed for merits, wast united to the
glorious Virgin.*

*When thy spouse being great with precious
seed
Wonder and doubt have made thee anxious
'Tis by the divine Spirit's breath, the angel
tells thee, her son has been conceived*

*thou dost embrace thy new-born Lord
to uttermost Egyptian coasts
thou followest him in exile
When He is lost in Jerusalem,
thou seekest and findest Him
Mingling joy with tears*

*After death the rest of men are blest by a
loving destiny. And when they have won the
palm, they are received into glory
Thou in thy lifetime, like the saints above,
enjoyest God – More blest by this wondrous
lot.*

O Trinity most high, spare us as we pray

*Grant us through Joseph's merits to rise to
heaven
So that at last we may perpetually to Thee
Utter our grateful canticle. Amen*

Reading 4 (Rom 13: 11-12)

🎵 Aithrí Sheáin de hÓra (Trad)
(Seán Hore's repentance)

*Oh Son of Mary of Graces, put to death
after painful passion
You purchased Adam's race, with Your
sweat,
Your blood and Your red wounds.*

*Answer me – my love, in due course
bring my soul to Paradise with the
esteemed.
Where I may spend long, bright, fine solace
between an apostle and archangel.*

*Answer me Christ, friend of my heart
Move this rock from my breast
And in my sight may streams of repentance
flow that will carry me to paradise*

*For I am a sinner: scandalous, capable of
bad, wicked deeds. And do not recall life's
vanity to my soul at the hour of my
departure.*

*Mary – full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women.
How sweet the sight – the fruit of your
womb – Jesus. Now and ever, in the time of
pain, may you and God stand for us.*

**Reading 5 (Hymn of Joy – St. John of the Cross)
from *Prayer of a soul taken with love***

♪ Come, adore this wondrous presence
(Ronan McDonagh)
(From the Collection *Ancient Promise*)

Reading 6 (1 Cor 4: 5)

♪ Ps 138 (Ronan McDonagh)
(From the Mass of St John of the Cross)

Reading 7 (3 Ascent 20.2 – St. John of the Cross)

♪ Dark night of the soul
(Words by St. John of the Cross)
(Arranged and Adapted – L McKennitt)

Reading 8 (Canticle 6.1 – St. John of the Cross)

♪ Ps 64 (Ronan McDonagh)
(From the Collection *Ancient Promise*)

Reading 9 (Is 7: 14b-15)

♪ Ecce Quod Natura
(English 15th Century)

*Behold Nature
changes her law
a pure virgin
Bears God's son.*

*Behold, a new joy,
Behold, new wonder:
A virgin bears a son
Without knowing man
But as a pear tree bears a pear
The earth creates a sapphire
And the rose a lily.*

*This doleful world
God saw in ruins
So a delectable rose
He produced from the thorn
A virgin queen
A healing for the world
And the salvation of its people.*

*Divinity could not be
More humbled,
Nor could our fragility
Be more exalted
Than to be placed in heaven
Equal with God
Through this union.*

Concluding Prayer