

## LITURGY 11 JUNE - RTE BROADCAST

### Congregation responses in **bold blue**

Opening hymn All sing

Daniel Mulholland (Piano)

Be Thou My Vision  
Ancient Irish poem,  
ca. 8th cent. Tr. by  
Mary E. Byrne 1905,

*Séamas O'Labhradha*  
(Low whistle)

Versified by Eleanor  
H. Hull

*Aisling Kerr*  
*Catherine Gribben*  
*Leading the congregation*

1912 Traditional Irish  
melody

Arr. by David Evans,  
1927

Hymn Tune: SLANE

1. 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.
2. Be Thou my Wisdom,  
and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Rev Alan Lorimer

**Welcome:**

*Good morning and welcome from the studio here in RTE to those joining us by television, radio and the worldwide web. My name is Alan Lorimer and I am a Pioneer Ministry Leader in the Methodist Church in Ireland. I currently serve with my colleague Breige O'Hare in well.com, an ecumenical project, in North Belfast. In well.com we base our work and service around a Celtic rhythm of prayer.*

*Today we invite you to share our prayer with us, worshipping God with us in this place. Our prayer is gentle. There is space in this service for you - to sing, to pray, to listen to the music, and so become more aware of God with you not only in Word and Worship but also in your heart and in your home.*

*God: the breath that gives us life, the fire who inflames our heart and the living water who wells up on the inside. God wants to spend this time with you. God welcomes you into this prayer.*

*We invite you to continue our opening hymn with us as we sing the last two verses of 'Be thou My vision'*

All sing

As above

3. 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

4. High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Rev Alan  
Lorimer*

Opening prayers

The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us**

Holy God  
Creator God  
God of life and longing

**Be with us**

Holy God  
Incarnate God  
God of tenderness and compassion

**Be with us**

Holy God  
Transforming God  
God of growth and healing

**Be with us**

*Rev Alan  
Lorimer*

Prayer of  
confession:

Holy God,  
  
You search our hearts  
and you know every part of us.  
All our desires are known to you,  
and from you, no secrets are hidden.  
Help us to recognise our weaknesses  
so that we might be free to love you.

We pray for freedom from

Our petty jealousies and insecurities  
**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Our yearning for approval and acceptance  
**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

The need to have control over others  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Our ache for things than do not lead to you  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

The fears that stop us trusting in you  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Almighty God,

By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
cleanse our hearts so that we might  
perfectly love you and glorify  
your holy name.

May we be more and more alive to you.  
We make this prayer  
through Jesus Christ our Lord:

AMEN.

Chloe McGrath  
(Singer)

Psalm :sung:

From the depths (Psalm 130)

Aisling  
Kerr(Harmony)

*From the Depths*  
Verses 1 and 2

From the depths I cry to you, O God  
Lord, listen to my voice

Larry Harte  
(guitar)

*Celtic Psalms: The*  
*Lord's my Shepherd.*  
Kiran Wimberley  
and the McGraths

From the depths I cry to you, O Go  
Please listen to my prayer

Seamas  
OLabhradha  
(Low whistle)

For if you should mark our iniquity  
O lord who could stand  
But with God forgiveness can be found  
But with God forgiveness can be found

I wait in stillness for the Lord,  
And in God's words do I hope  
More than those who hope for morning light  
More than those who hope for morning light

Trust in God you people Israel,  
Who redeems you from sin  
For with God forgiveness can be found  
For with God forgiveness can be found

*Instrumental verse*

READER

New Living Translation

Our Old Testament reading is from the book of  
Isaiah Chapter 30 verses 15-18

Rev Alan  
Lorimer

Larry Harte  
(guitar)

Seamas  
OLabhradha  
(Low whistle)

This is what the Sovereign Lord,  
the Holy One of Israel, says:  
“Only in returning to me  
and resting in me will you be saved.

In quietness and confidence is your strength.  
But you would have none of it.  
<sup>16</sup>You said, ‘No, we will get our help from Egypt.  
They will give us swift horses for riding into  
battle.’

But the only swiftness you are going to see  
is the swiftness of your enemies chasing you!  
<sup>17</sup>One of them will chase a thousand of you.  
Five of them will make all of you flee.  
You will be left like a lonely flagpole on a hill  
or a tattered banner on a distant mountaintop.”

<sup>18</sup>So the Lord must wait for you to come to him  
so he can show you his love and compassion.  
For the Lord is a faithful God.  
Blessed are those who wait for his help.  
Those who wait around for him are the lucky  
ones.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Chloe  
McGrath

Aisling Kerr

Larry Harte  
(guitar)

Séamas  
OLabhradha  
(Low whistle)

Psalm 131 -  
sung. A  
continuation of  
previous psalm  
(same music and  
arrangement)

*Instrumental first verse*

My heart's not lifted up O Lord  
Nor my eyes raised to high  
I do not think of things too great  
I have calmed and quietened my soul

Like a child with mother quieted  
My soul is at rest  
For with God forgiveness can be found  
For with God forgiveness can be found

**SPACE FOR VIDEO CLIP HERE?**

Breige  
O'Hare

Reflective  
introduction to  
gospel

*in a few minutes, I am going to read the gospel. I want to prepare us to hear it and to meet the Lord who is with us as we listen to it.*

*We have just heard God speaking to us through the prophet Isaiah and the psalmists. He invites us to be still and rely on his strength, especially at times when we feel weak and helpless. Wait in stillness, we are told, trust, rest....it's OK.*

*This is not God saying give up all together, stop doing your bit of this adventure we call life. It is God saying stop struggling, stop trying to fix and work it out completely on your own. Let me in. Let me carry you, let me share this, hold you in it.*

*Trust me. I've got you.*

It's not easy to trust someone, to trust them to carry you. Perhaps we have been let down, disappointed by someone we trusted in the past. We can transfer the same fears into relationship with God. ....and it doesn't work to be told that you are safe, it's Ok. You need to experience something of that safety, that trust for yourself.

*Come with me into the gospel of the paralytic man in Mark 4, the man who relies on his friends to carry him to Jesus. Join the friends who take a risk for him by digging a hole in the roof, making their desperation public. Join the folk who relying on Jesus to take pity on the friend who could no longer move for himself.*

*And for the sermon? No preaching today. We're going to let the Lord break open his Word for you by praying with this gospel in a way that's been part of our shared Christian traditions for many, many centuries. We'll use the baptised/sanctified imagination to help us be with the Risen Jesus in his Word now, just as the paralysed man and his friends were with him in flash and blood 2000 years ago.*

I'll invite you to imagine the scene as I read it and maybe imagine yourself in it...you might want to be a bystander, or you maybe would like to be the person being brought to Jesus by friends....maybe you can think of people you trust, living or dead, who carried and supported you in the past. It might

be good to let yourself be carried but if that doesn't seem comfortable for you, let your friends/family take you by the hand. You do what's best for you. ...and notice Jesus....

*Mairead  
Duffy  
(harp)*

*Gentle harp music begins in the background*

No need to work things out or worry about what's going on in the prayer. God is with you. Whether you feel him here or not, God is here. He is gazing at you with great love as you listen. As you breathe and notice your breathe he is in that breath, giving you life.

*Breige  
O'Hare*

**Gospel**

**The Lord is here, [his Spirit is with us.](#)**

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them.

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Music continues to play in background (20 secs)

Breige  
O’Hare

...Risen Jesus is with you. Imagine him beside you. Turn to him. What is it you need to say to him after this gospel? Say it.

(20 seconds for reflection) Music comes to a close

**The Lord is here, his Spirit is with us**

Rev Alan Lorimer

Let us continue to praise God as we sing together “Be Still and Know that I am God”

*All sing*                  Hymn

Be still and know that I am God (x3)

*Daniel  
Mulholland  
(Piano)*

I am the Lord that healeth thee(x3)

In thee O lord, I put my trust (x3)

*Aisling Kerr  
Catherine  
Gribben  
(leading  
congregation)*

*Rev Alan  
Lorimer*                  Carried to the  
Lord

The Lord who cares for us is the Lord who called us to himself in our baptism. Today we use the cross, traced in baptism on our foreheads, to remind us of our union with Christ. We give ourselves again to him, entrusting ourselves into his care, knowing that we are welcome and wanted.

As we come to have this sign of our baptism traced on our foreheads we are aware that we carry in our hearts those people who also need Christ’s care, our family and friends, you at home joining us in prayer.

We carry you to the Lord.

Rev Alan  
Lorimer

*All in the congregation come forward to have the cross, the sign of baptism, made on their foreheads. Movement accompanied by Mairead Duffy singing the Breastplate of St Patrick*

Mairead Duffy  
(Singer)

*The Breastplate  
of St Patrick*

Catherine  
Gribben  
(Harmony)

*Sarah Hart & Bob  
Halligan*

Larry Harte  
(guitar)

*Spirit and Song  
2013*

Seamas  
OLabhradha  
(Low whistle)

1. I bind myself  
to the power of heaven.  
I bind myself to the light of the sun,  
the brightness of the moon,  
the deepness of the sea;  
I bind myself to the power of Christ.

*Refrain*

Christ with me and before me;  
Christ behind me and within me;  
Christ to the right of me  
and to the left of me;  
Christ above me and beneath me:  
I bind myself to the virtue of Christ.

2. I bind myself  
to the guidance of angels.  
I bind myself  
to the love of the Lamb,  
for he alone is peace  
and he alone is light.  
I bind myself  
to the guidance of Christ.

*Bridge*

In the eyes of all who see me,  
in the ears of all who hear me,  
in the hearts of those  
who know me:  
O God, uphold me.  
Uphold me, Lord.

Christ with me and before me;  
Christ behind me and within me;  
Christ to the right of me  
and to the left of me;  
Christ above me and beneath me:  
I bind myself to the virtue of Christ. (X2)  
Christ with me  
Christ to the right of me  
And to the left of me  
Christ with me

Christine  
McCausland

Prayers of  
intercession

### In Christ we pray

To put on the mind of Christ  
to choose wisely  
to judge fairly  
to remember we belong to God

### In Christ we pray

To share in the heart of Christ  
to be his kindness  
to cry his tears  
to feel his care

### In Christ we pray

To be his hands  
to receive from others  
to realise our own emptiness  
to change and to be changed

### In Christ we pray

To share his excitement  
to realise his dream  
to know he is with us  
to feel him close

### In Christ we pray

Rev Alan  
Lorimer

*(Congregation Stand)*

In Christ we pray together  
**Our Father who art in Heaven**  
**Hallowed be Thy Name**  
**Thy kingdom come**  
**Thy will be done**  
**On Earth as it is in Heaven**  
**Give us this day**  
**Our daily bread**  
**And forgive us our trespasses**  
**As we forgive those**  
**Who trespass against us**  
**And lead us not into Temptation**  
**But deliver us from evil**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**the power and the glory**  
**For ever and ever AMEN**

Rev Alan  
Lorimer

Final blessing

We have come to the end of our service. I want to thank the musicians and singers and the congregation who have travelled down with us to pray with you this morning.

And so we have the final blessing,

May we rest In the stillness of God  
May we find acceptance  
in the deep love of his Son  
and in our coming and our going  
may we experience  
the freedom of the Spirit  
day by day,  
calling us to new life  
together in Christ

**AMEN**

Congregation

Hymn

Let us sing together our final hymn: Love divine

*Led by Aisling  
Kerr and  
Catherine  
Gribben*

WORDS: Charles  
Wesley, 1747

MUSIC: W. P.  
Rowlands (1860-  
1937)

Daniel Mulholland  
(Piano)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

2. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.