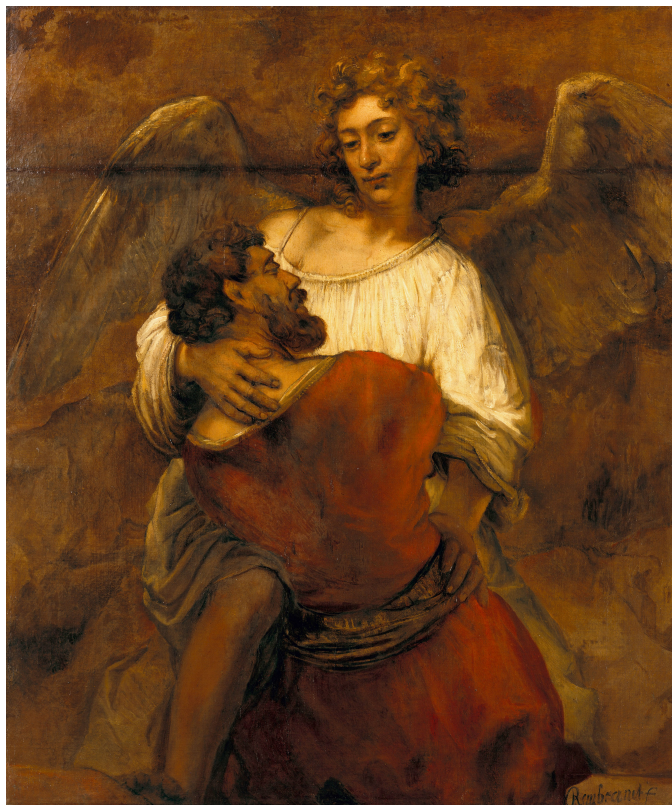


**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, August 2, 2020**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Preparing for Worship**

It's a long way off but inside it  
there are quite different things going on:  
Festivals at which the poor man  
is king and the consumptive is  
healed; mirrors in which the blind look  
at themselves and love looks at them  
back; and industry is for mending  
the bent bones and the minds fractured  
by life. It's a long way off, but to get  
there takes no time and admission  
is free, if you purge yourself  
of desire, and present yourself with  
your need only and the simple offering  
of your faith, green as a leaf.

'The Kingdom' by R. S. Thomas

**Welcome**

Remembering when we could gather as a congregation,  
**we worship now in our own homes.**  
Remembering how Jesus drew the crowds,  
**we worship knowing he draws us still in solidarity.**  
Remembering how Christ fed the hungry,  
**we worship now for food for the soul,**  
**each one of us a part**  
**of that glorious noisy throng.**

**Hymn 719** The one who longs

The one who longs to make us whole  
is waiting to embrace  
our broken lives, so we can know  
the power of healing grace.  
God's love surrounds our suffering,  
and keeps us through the night;  
God helps us bear our deep despair  
till we see morning light.

The one who saves us from ourselves  
is waiting to release  
our hearts from chains of self-reproach  
and failure to find peace.  
When harmful habits leave us bruised,  
distracted by inner pain,  
God comes to us through trusted friends,  
and helps us hope again.

The one who understands our need  
accepts us as we are;  
and, like a loved one, welcomes us  
when we have wandered far.  
God never says we come too late  
to be forgiven, free,  
but promises we can become  
the self we're meant to be.

Words: Edith Sinclair Downing (1922-2016)

Tune: Kingsfold

**Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Lord God, all creation speaks of your glory.  
You are at work in the seeds that grow into flowers and fruits.  
You are present in both summer rains and sunshine.  
Let our gratitude be great, and our worship be sincere.  
You listen out for the laughter of children and their delight in your world.  
Help us be filled with child-like wonder.

We come to this time together with different needs:  
some of us wrestling with problems that threaten to overwhelm us,  
some with joys to share,  
some of us hungering for what you alone can provide.  
Loving God, you meet each of us wherever we are, and wherever we are at.

Merciful God, the story of Jacob shows your willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles.

We confess that too often we tighten up, hold on to our own desires. Forgive what is wrong, strengthen what is right, and guide us in the right way.  
Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values and pressures that confront us.  
Help us loosen our grip and come to you open-handed and open-hearted,  
open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, Jacob wrestled and asked for a blessing.  
We, too, ask for blessing in these strange and uncharted days  
when the world seems so out of joint.  
Help us to see glimpses of your kingdom in the making.

You encourage us to stand strong,  
to seek the blessings that you have provided for us,  
to recognize the many ways that you are with us,  
giving us strength and courage.

Help us receive your blessings and, in turn, be a blessing to others.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour who taught us to pray saying:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading    Genesis 32:22-31 (NRSV)**

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans,

and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

### **New Testament Reading Mark 8: 22-26 (NRSV)**

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” And the man looked up and said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.”

Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not even go into the village.”

### **Hymn 718 We cannot measure how you heal**

We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer’s prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

So, some have come who need your help  
and some have come to make amends  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind, and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make your broken people whole.

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

Tune: The Banks O’Doon

## **Anthem In the bulb there is a flower**

In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody.  
There's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future,  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt, there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
Something God alone can see.

Words: Natalie Allyn Wakeley Sleeth (1930-1992)

Tune: Hymn of Promise

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Loving God hear us now as we pray for others in the name of Christ.  
This summer feels like no other, the usual patterns of living so disrupted.  
With holidays derailed, may there still be opportunities for rest for the weary and for children to experience joy and care-free living.  
May we build a country and a world where every child has enough nurture and nourishment to grow healthy and strong.  
Be with those who are unsure about their future – especially mindful of young people whose study and career plans have been thrown off course.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lift up those who feel bowed down, those who feel they are limping along.  
May they feel supported and strengthened by love.  
Bring your healing to those who are hurting in body, mind or spirit.  
Lay your hand for the second time, the third time and more  
upon those who are sick or grieving,  
For those who struggle with you, we pray that they find themselves, through finding you.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

You know the anxiety that surrounds us.  
Lockdown restrictions are easing yet in some places being re-imposed.  
Guide the policy and practice of governments and others in charge  
and may we each take our responsibilities seriously for the good of all.  
We pray for wisdom for those who take decisions which affect patterns of work and  
support for those affected by those decisions.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, yours is a peaceable kingdom. We pray for those throughout the world enduring  
violence or injustice of any kind, that they find relief, justice, and the blessing of peace.  
That truth may prevail over lies, and peace over warfare.

Lord, we thank you for each fragment of your kingdom you grace us with. Together, enable  
us to piece together a view of your bigger picture both within us and around us. So that in  
our actions as well as our words we proclaim – ‘your kingdom come’.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

### **Benediction**

Jan Richardson

May God,  
who comes to us  
in the things of this world,  
bless your eyes  
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,  
who looks upon you  
with deepest love,  
bless your eyes  
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,  
who perceives what is  
and what may yet be,  
bless your eyes  
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three  
bless the path before you and  
lead you on.

**Sung Blessing** The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
And be gracious unto you  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
And give you peace.

Minister: Rosie Magee  
Reflection: Peter Millar  
Reader: Ann Hindle  
Vocal ensemble: Frances Cooper, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew Crichton, Tim Cooper, Andrew Carvel  
Piano accompaniment: Tim Cooper and Drew Crichton  
Communications: Alison Bruce and Susan McLarty  
Service produced by Andrew Carvel

Image: Jacob wrestling with the angel *by* Rembrandt (1606 - 1669) / Public domain

Hymns used under licence from CCLI 247862  
Streaming licence 351013

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh. Charity SC008990