

## St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 18 October 2020

### God's Living Presence



**Opening Music**     Souvenir douloureux, No 6 from Miniatures Op. 20, César Cui

#### **Preparing for Worship**

Open wide the windows of our spirits and fill us full of light.  
(Christina Rossetti)

#### **Welcome**

#### **Call to Worship**

On the mountaintop  
after the wind  
after the fire  
after the silence  
you, O God  
(Open the Bible)

By the red sea  
enemy behind  
and ocean before  
and the parting of the sea  
you, O God  
(Pour some water)

In the garden  
just at dawn  
with the gardener  
and tears  
you, O God  
(Place a flower)

At the table  
where crumbs fell  
but even the dogs  
feasted  
you, O God

(Break bread)

Look at where God has been,  
look at what God has done,  
and come to worship God,  
present, this day, in this place.

(Light a candle)

**Hymn 500 Lord of creation to you be all praise**

Verses 1,4 & 5

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!  
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!  
Your glory and power are beyond us to tell,  
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;  
I praise and adore you for all you impart;  
your love to inflame me, your counsel to guide,  
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;  
If I should disown you, I'd stumble and fall;  
but, sworn in your service your word I'll obey,  
and walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

**Opening Prayer**

Heart-stirring God,  
You know each of us by name  
Your love is new every morning.  
Your love is new *this* morning.  
Your Presence remains with us,  
whether we are called to travel or need to stay put.  
Grant that as we glimpse your greatness,  
reflected in your many gifts,  
we may, in turn, reflect your glory in our worship  
and return to you the praise that is yours alone.  
For you are our rest-giver and the source of our peace.

Yet our minds cannot fully comprehend your glory  
or the vastness of your love.  
Open our eyes to it, stretching in beauty over the face of the earth,  
help us to see clearly the priorities, and anxieties in our lives.  
Forgive us when our concerns have been limited or we have  
failed to let your big-heartedness open our hearts and hands.  
Merciful God, give us the grace and courage to open our hearts and hands.  
Shape our lives to your glory.

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Receive the riches of God's mercy and grace.  
Know beyond any doubt that you are loved and forgiven in Jesus.

Jesus who taught his disciples to pray together...

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
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 Exodus 33: 12-23 New Revised Standard Version**

Moses said to the LORD, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight." Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.'

The LORD said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.' Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The LORD"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,' he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' And the LORD continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

## **Reflection**

**Choir I hear the voice of God**

Music: Stuart M Mitchell

I hear the voice of God  
calling to me every day,  
I hear the voice of God  
calling every day.

## **Our Living Stories**

### **Silence**

## Hymn 782 Lord of Life, we come to you

Tune: 'Eriskay Love Lilt'

Lord of Life, we come to you.  
Lord of all, our Saviour be,  
come to bless and to heal  
with the light of your love.

Through the days of doubt and toil,  
In our joy and in our pain,  
Guide our steps in your way,  
Make us one in your love.

### Prayers for Others

Lord of all, we lay ourselves and our lives before you.  
We acknowledge that we have not always recognised your presence, but we know that you have been with us on our journey through life; ever-present, no matter our situation. Help us this day and always to feel your constant presence - within us strengthening, without us protecting, above us raising, beneath us upholding, before us leading, and behind us guarding.

We remember those who know you but feel distant, who in their times of greatest need desperately seek the safety of your healing and comforting arms, and the assurance only you can give. Help them this day and always to bridge the gap and to feel your constant presence.

We remember those who feel alone on their personal journey, without hope, seemingly nowhere to turn, and unaware of your love and strengthening promise. Help them this day and always, to find you and to feel your constant presence.

We remember those for whom the life journey is unimaginably tough. All who are homeless, living in poverty, suffering injustice, or trapped in war-zones. Grant them your strength and help them to feel your constant caring presence. Help us and all who can make a difference, to work for solutions and spread the gift of your love.

We remember our church, at home and across the globe. May we not confine ourselves to the buildings that have served us across generations. Help us to use our precious resources and God-given gifts, alongside your inspirational presence to explore different ways to worship, celebrate and spread your word, reach outward, and to enjoy fellowship with you and each other in a society so much in need of your love.

Lord, our world is in turmoil, ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic and other diseases, battling against natural and handmade disasters, challenged by political unrest, and fighting to stem economic and environmental tragedy. In these times of uncertainty, grant us and all who can make a difference, your wisdom to see and share your light. Help all caught on the inside, to feel your constant presence and guiding hand.

Lord, may we throw back the curtains of our lives to see your light, open our windows to hear your voice, and to always be awake to your presence everywhere in our world, our lives and the lives of others. All this we ask in your name. Amen

**Hymn 96     You are before me, God, you are behind**

Verses 1-3 & 5

You are before me, God, you are behind,  
And over me you have spread out your hand;  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
Too high to grasp, too great to understand.

Then from your Spirit where, God, shall I go,  
And from your presence where, God, shall I fly?  
If I ascend to heaven you are there,  
And still are with me, if in hell I lie.

If I should take my flight into the dawn,  
If I should dwell on ocean's farthest shore,  
Your mighty hand will rest upon me still,  
And your right hand will guard me evermore.

Search me, O God, search me and know my heart,  
Try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;  
Keep me from any path that gives you pain,  
And lead me in the everlasting way.

**Blessing and Sending**

Growing God, we have known your presence.

**We have lived in your love.**

Show us your glory.

**Reveal your glory in us.**

We will carry your glory from here.

**We will show it to all your children.**

And the Blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems and Sanctifies, be upon you and all you love and pray for this day, and forever more. Amen.

**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.

**Postlude Music     Fantasia in C, BWV 570, JS Bach**

Minister and Leaders: Rev Dr Rosie Magee, Pat McKerrow and Jimmy Campbell  
Vocal ensemble: Frances Cooper, Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray,  
Drew Crichton, Tim Cooper, Andrew Carvel  
Soloist Hymn 96: Frances Cooper  
Pianist: Eleanor Wilson  
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris  
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty and Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

Call to Worship: Spill the Beans issue 36 ©2020 Spill the Beans Resource Team

Photographs: Pat McKerrow

Hymns used under licence from CCLI 247862

Streaming licence 351013

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

[www.stagw.org.uk](http://www.stagw.org.uk)