

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 22 November 2020**

Do you see me?



Music Brother James' Air

Welcome

Call to Worship

Spill the Beans

A throne for Christ the King,
or a pavement
with the lonely and homeless.

A court for our God,
or a food queue with the down-and-outs.

A crown for our Saviour,
or a twist of thorns shaped in mockery.

A robe for our Lord,
or a blanket wound round
a quiet doorway sleeper.

A banquet for our Redeemer,
or a broken loaf, shared at a broken table
in a broken world.

A jewelled goblet for the use of Christ,
or a bowl of water
for Christ to wash the feet of others.

It is a dull glory,
a tarnished grandeur,
but it is the reign of grace.
This is our God.

Hymn 727 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.

Natalie Allyn Wakeley Sleet (1930-1992)

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Spill the Beans

What does Jesus look like?
Like the homeless woman who sits outside Tesco.
What does Jesus look like?
Like the beggar who sits on the bridge.
What does Jesus look like?

Like the geeky guys we leave out of our games.
What does Jesus look like?
Like that nosy neighbour who never misses a trick.
What does Jesus look like?
Like everyone we meet throughout our day...
Those are the ones Jesus asks us to love.
Lord help us,
in loving,
to see each other differently,
knowing you are in all. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God who reigns over heaven and earth,
may we know your presence among us.
Gathered and sent
may we celebrate your reign
in our worship here
and our service wherever the week ahead takes us.
As we serve and are served
may we see your face before us
in each person we encounter,
those in need and those we need.

Give us the courage to be vulnerable
knowing that you risked vulnerability with us.
May we always be willing to share what we have
and to ask for what we need.
Christ our King, reign in us
and transform us in our daily living,
empower us to serve you by serving one another,
knowing ourselves to be citizens
of the commonwealth of heaven.

Strengthen us through the prayer that Jesus taught, saying together:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in 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.**

Making Love Real

Scripture Reading Matthew 25: 31-46 (NRSV)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Hymn O God in whom we live and move

O God, in whom we live and move,
your love is law, your law is love;
your present Spirit waits to fill
all those who come to do your will.

Unto all people teach your love,
that we may its transmitters be;
and help us know, with joyful awe,
the encircling presence of your law.

The Spirit's working does fulfil
world's hope, and God's all-perfect will
allows no loving deed, true word
or thought, no kindness, to be lost.

Our spirits fill with love, O God,
that we may work in patience still.
Who works for justice, works for you;
Who works in love, your servant is.

Words: Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892), paraphrased
Tune: O Waly Waly

Reflection

Anthem

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and at my departing.

Words: Old English Prayer from Sarum Primer
Music: John Rutter

Looking out for Others in Prayer

‘When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?’
A prayer based on the hymn by Sydney Bertram Carter (Ch4 544)

Lord, you ask us of us each the question:
‘When I needed a neighbour, were you there?’

We know that until we can learn to truly recognise each other,
and become real to one another,
we will never truly see you.

Help us to be where you already are.

Lord, give us eyes to see

Lord, we pray for those who are hungry and thirsty,
whether hungry for food or for justice.
We will not cut ourselves off from the need,
the rising demand on foodbanks,
the children who go hungry when there is no school.
We will not deny the reality that there is enough food for all if only it was shared.
Help us to be where you already are.

Lord, give us eyes to see

Lord, we pray for those are cold and vulnerable,
whether cold from the weather, or frozen by fear or loneliness.
We will not deny the reality that there is enough clothing for all, if only it was shared.
Sometimes we avoid those who are depressed or lonely;
we don’t know what to say, yet, we don’t have to say anything,
you just ask us to be there.

Help us to be where you already are.

Lord, give us eyes to see

Lord, we pray for those who do not have housing or are in unsafe living conditions.
When we can feel so confined to home, we can forget those who dream of a
home to surround them and provide security and protection.
We pray for those who do not feel welcome in this country, in their communities, in
their workplaces or their families.
Help us be the welcome they seek.

Help us to be where you already are.
Lord, give us eyes to see

Lord, we pray for those known to us in need of healing, of mind, body or spirit.
Those for whom the long weariness, and old hurts are taking their toll.

(silence)

May they know there is no end to your love and its reach.

Help us to be where you already are.

Lord, give us eyes to see

that the ones who show you most clearly
are often thought of as the last and the least in our world.
Yet, they are the first-borns in your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Blessing and Sending

This is the reign of Christ,
let us choose to trust Christ,
not with the glories of worldly sovereignty
but in heaven's idea of the servant.
Let us go
and come back soon,
as all the glories of Christ
are found in the long hopes of the prophets
and an empty stable waiting,
somewhere.

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this day and always. Amen.

Sung Blessing

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.

Organ Music Nun danket alle Gott Op. 65, No. 59

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Worship Leaders: Rev. Rosie Magee, Bridget Harris

Prayer: Crispin Longden

Scripture Reading: Ruth Sheard

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West

Vocal ensemble: Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew Crichton, Tim Cooper, Andrew Carvel

Trumpet: David Dow

Piano: Selda Dow

Eleanor Wilson

Organist and pianist: Drew Crichton

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

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