

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 13 December 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Tell out my Soul



Introit 'The Angel Gabriel from heaven came'

Welcome

Call to Worship

Spill the Beans

We come today in joy
for God calls us in love:
we are blessed and favoured.
We come today with hope
for God calls us to a new way:
we are blessed and favoured.
We come today in faith
for God calls us by name:
we are blessed and favoured.
Let us answer God's call to worship.

Hymn 112 God whose almighty word

God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,

and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move o'er the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and, in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

Blessèd and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world, far and wide,
let there be light.

John Marriott (1780-1825) and Thomas Raffles (1788-1863)

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Loving Lord,
you are the God of new life
found in the most unexpected places.
You speak into the bleak and barren places in our lives
and make them fertile.
You just ask us to trust you.
You ask us to say 'yes'.
and to let your hopes for the word
be brought to birth in us, through us
and sometimes despite us.

We praise you for calling humans to do your work in the world.
Help us each to answer your call
knowing that to do so comes at a cost.
We confess that in our confusion and anxiety
our lack of vision and lack of trust in you
bubble to the surface.
You see who we truly are

yet you still stand by us,
offering us grace
and above all, forgiveness.
Forgive us when we identify with the proud rather than the powerless.
Remind us of Mary
who was willing to risk her life and reputation.
Remind us that you can work with the tiniest seed of faithfulness
to help grow your kingdom.

As we move closer to the celebration of your birth in the world
give us the courage and the desire
to seek to serve you as best we can.
May your love set us free this day, and every day.
All this we ask in the name of Jesus
whose praise we tell out
and who taught us when we pray to say 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.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Joy cannot be bought, is a priceless treasure.
Joy lives deep in the human spirit.
God of love, we were made in joy.
May we live that way.

(candle lighting)

We light a candle for joy.
May it light the way.

Hymn 284 Hope is a candle (verses 1-3)

Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,
never consumed, though it burns through the years;
dim in the daylight of power and privilege –
when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,
threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed.
Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows -
violence and force their dead-end course.

Love is a candle whose light makes a circle,
Where every face is the face of a friend.
Widen the circle by sharing and giving –
God's holy dare: love everywhere.

Richard Leach

Drama The Minny Mice and the Angel

Spill the Beans (adapted)

Sharing the Peace

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Hymn 287 No wind at the window

No wind at the window,
no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand,
no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness,
no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman
and a voice in her ear.

‘O Mary, O Mary
don’t hide from my face.

Be glad that you're favoured
and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming
the world has begun;
and you are requested
to mother God's Son.'

'This child must be born
that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many,
destruction for some;
both end and beginning,
both message and sign;
both victor and victim,
both yours and divine.'

No payment was promised,
no promises made;
no wedding was dated,
no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting
to what none could guess,
replied with conviction,
'Tell God I say, 'Yes.'"

John L. Bell (b.1949)

Dialogue Reflection Tell out my Soul?

Hymn 286 Tell out my soul (verses 1-3)

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Based on the Magnificat from the New English Bible

Prayers for Others

In the darkness of the night, in the dullness of the day, in the gaps where crowds should be, in the uncertainty and anxiety, like Mary

We tell out your coming

In the worry about jobs, in the fear of infection, in the frustration of not being able to visit our families, in the distances between us, like Mary

We tell out your coming

In the Christmas trees appearing, in the online shopping, in the delight in the small signs of Christmas, in the unfailing excitement of children, like Mary

We tell out your coming

In our trying to reach for a Christmas that is what we have always known, we forget that we continually create our own traditions, that we can sing new songs and eat new foods. There are many people for whom Christmas is new and unexpected, joyful beyond hope and full of promise – children, new parents, new grandparents, new partners and newly-weds, new citizens. Mary was overjoyed by your presence and your choosing of her. Like Mary

We tell out your coming

In her joy, Mary did not worry about gossip, or money, or what people might think. She saw God working his purpose out, she was excited and grateful that she was an instrument of that purpose, and she was prepared to put her whole heart and soul into it.

Loving father of all, in our often humdrum and conventional lives, make us be like her, seeing and wondering at your work in the world, using our energies and our gifts to help in that work, in however small a way.

We have the chance of a Christmas that is less cluttered, less glittery and less materialistic. Let us use this time to see far more clearly your coming as a baby in poverty. Let us use this unusual time to find the simple story and the simple actions that make up the real message of Jesus coming into the world, and of God's actions in upsetting the conventional order and making all things new. Like Mary

We tell out your coming, now and always, in the person of Jesus our friend and our teacher.

Amen

Hymn 286 Tell out my soul (verse 4)

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Blessing and Sending

Comfort, joy and peace be yours.
Know how blessed you are
and go to be that blessing to all around you.
May God Almighty hold you
in the palm of God's hand
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

Fuga sopra il Magnificat BWV 732

J.S. Bach

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, Alison Campbell and Peter Millar

Drama: Eilidh, Iona and Edward

Scripture Reader: Jennifer Speirs

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

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

Sources:

Image: Rosie Magee

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