

**St Andrew's and St George's West**  
**Order of Service, 31 January 2021**



**Music**

Auld Lang Syne

Geoffrey Atkinson

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

Seasons of the Spirit

Take off your dress shoes; you may need to cross a rocky path.  
Take off your head covering; God may wish to kiss your forehead with a holy breeze.  
God is in the air, and God is in the space between us.  
God will make the emptiness into a holy place.  
Come, let us worship...

**Hymn 540** I heard the voice of Jesus say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast':  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink, and live':  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright':  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk,  
till travelling days are done.

Words: Horatius N Bonar (1808-1899)  
Tune: The Rowan Tree

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

Holy God, architect of the universe,  
powerful and wise beyond  
our understanding,  
we offer our praise  
and to remember your  
wondrous deeds  
since time began 'till now.

We gather here in the name of your Son,  
the one who called us by name  
and invites us into a relationship with you,  
an invitation that came with authority  
calling for a response from each one of us.

We are continually surprised by the life of Jesus  
and how it reveals more of you  
and helps us to know you and trust you more each day.  
We wonder at the authority shown in the gospels by Jesus,  
an authority that does not seek power for power's sake,  
nor does he use authority to serve himself.  
Instead Jesus uses his authority to help others,  
to heal, to teach, to encourage, to invite and include.  
Lord, forgive us both individually and as part of the body of Christ  
when we have used the authority given to us to take rather than give,  
to abuse rather than serve.  
Forgive us, also, when we have not used it at all.

Lord, remind us that we are but a tiny part of creation,  
that we are to seek justice and offer mercy and grace to all people.  
May we seek to always serve rather than be served,  
and to continue to be co-creators with you  
bringing the kingdom of heaven here and now.

In the words of the One who showed us the way, we pray 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.

## Introduction to Scripture Reading

### Scripture Reading            Mark 1:21-28 (NRSV)

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he (Jesus) entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

### Hymn     Do not be vexed or envy those

Paraphrase of Psalm 37:1-7, 16&17

Do not be vexed or envy those  
obsessed with doing wrong.  
Their fortune is like fields of grass  
whose growth cannot last long.

Trust in the Lord, do what is right,  
take root in God's good ground.  
Delight in God in whose great will  
your heart's desire is found.

Give God your trust, and let the Lord  
direct your future way.  
The justice of your cause shall rise  
and shine as clear as day.

Do not be jealous or dismayed  
should evil folk succeed.  
Wait patiently for God who comes  
in quietness to your need.

Better the pennies of the poor  
than wicked people's gain.  
God breaks their power; but humble folk  
will never live in vain.

John L Bell and Graham Maule

## Dialogue Reflection

**Anthem** If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
And I will pray the Father,  
and he shall give you another Comforter,  
that he may abide with you for ever;  
even the Spirit of truth.

Words: John 14:15-17

Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85)

## Prayers of the People

Spill the Beans

Healing God,  
our world needs your healing touch today.  
As Covid-19 continues to spread and cause chaos for millions of people  
we need your gentle healing touch  
for all who are administering and receiving the vaccine,  
for all who serve on the frontline medical services,  
for all who are helping our young people to stay in education,  
for all who are delivering to the isolated,  
for all who are working to keep the peace,  
for all who are putting themselves at risk to help others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As wars and threats of violence continue to rage in many places today  
we need your gentle healing touch  
for all who have been taken from their families and forced to take up arms,  
for all who have been at war for longer than they have been alive  
and for whom peace seems impossible,  
for all who continue to profit from war mongering and who endanger others' lives,  
for all who abuse their authority or use it for personal gain.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As our brothers and sisters suffer from all manner of illnesses and anxieties  
we need your gentle healing touch  
for all who are unable to access healthcare,  
for all who have had to wait for investigations or treatments,  
for all who have been isolated from loved ones,  
for all who have faced death alone.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In a moment's silence,  
we name those people and situations known to us  
where your gentle healing touch is needed today.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for listening to our groanings, O Lord,  
give us patience to wait for answers and courage to be the answer where we can.  
In the name of Christ, the healer, we pray. Amen

**Hymn 565** My life flows on in endless song (verses 1 and 4)

My life flows on in endless song  
above earth's lamentation:  
I catch the sweet, though far off, hymn  
that hails a new creation.  
    No storm can shake my inmost calm  
    while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
    Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,  
    how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
A fountain ever springing.  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?

Words: Robert Lowry and Doris Plenn  
Tune: American traditional

**Blessing**

Seasons of the Spirit

And now we share in the practice of blessing one another.  
Please join in as the words of the blessing become familiar.  
We will repeat it two times.

**We may fail; God does not.  
We may end; God does not.  
Bless and be blessed. Amen.**

**Music**

Voluntary in C

*Largo - Fuga*

John Stanley

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, David and Marie Austin, Peter Millar

Scripture Reader: Mary Margaret Scott

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Piano accompaniment: Drew Crichton

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

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

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