

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 28 February 2021

Bring Many Names



Preparing for Worship

“Holy One, untamed by the names I give you, in the silence
name me that I may know who I am.”

Ted Loder

Music

O Sacred Head, sore wounded

J S Bach's St Matthew Passion

Welcome and Call to Worship

(based on Matthew 20: 1-16)

Come!
Come and worship,
you who woke early and you who slept late;
you who pray often, and you who don't.
Whether we are first or last or somewhere in between,
there is room for all of us in God's kingdom,
and more than enough grace to go around.
Let us meet in the sanctuary of our hearts and
worship God together.

Hymn 166 Lord of all hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther, 1901-53
Tune: Slane

Opening Prayer

On this second Sunday in Lent, when we are invited to journey with Jesus towards the cross, let us pray together.

Loving God, we bless your holy name and marvel at the wonderful things that you have created. We offer you our praise and our grateful thanks for this time together.

Prayer of Adoration

In the past week we have thinking in particular about the night sky, with the dramatic landing of the rover, Perseverance, on the planet Mars.

Creator God, if we are fortunate enough to be able to see the night sky, perhaps through the glare of the city's artificial light, we find we are awed and amazed by it.

We realise when we look up at the sky how small and insignificant we are in the eternal scheme of things.

We marvel at the possibility that nonetheless we matter to you.

We may try to count the stars,

and think of all the named people who came before us,

and those who will come after -

our biological heirs and our spiritual ones,

those who will remember us when we are gone and keep our name alive.

We thank you for all those who lived by their faith and showed us the way.

Remind us of your promises, O God, and of our calling to help you to fulfil them in the brief time that we are here on earth.

May we play our part in the eternal struggle of good against evil, love against hatred, hope against despair.

We praise you, O God, for the deep mysteries of our faith, and ask you to keep us faithful to the One who has called us by name to leave everything to follow him.

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, forgive us for the many ways we betray your name, perhaps by seeking to promote our names beyond those of others or by not being aware enough of the injustices around us. Help us to promote hope over fear and love over indifference, in order that we may all move towards a fairer world. In Jesus' name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Lord, You lead us along the path of life, You reassure us with your company and give us hope for the future. We are confident of the truth that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

Every name has a story

Hymn 134 Bring many names (verses 1,2, 3,6)

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory,
living, loving God :
Hail and Hosanna!
Bring many names !

Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation,
genius at play :
Hail and Hosanna,
strong mother God !

Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled :
Hail and Hosanna,
warm father God !

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing,
everlasting home :
Hail and Hosanna,
great, living God !

Brian Wren (*b.* 1936)

Old Testament Scripture Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Anthem The Lord's my shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie in pastures green:
he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill:
for thou art with me and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
And in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be.

Words: Psalm 23, The Scottish Psalter 1650
Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

New Testament Scripture Reading Mark 8:34-38 (NRSV)

He (Jesus) called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Reflection

Hymn 198 Let us build a house (verses 1,2)

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
 All are welcome,
 all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
 All are welcome,
 all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

God of many names, you are *El Shaddai*, God Almighty, we come before you with our prayers.

You are *El Roi*, the 'God who sees'. The desire of our hearts is to join you in seeing the hurts in the world and working toward their healing.

We each name before you a person who has been on our mind this past week for whatever reason. (pause)

May the name hold within it all those who go unnamed.

We each name before you a person who is suffering in mind body or spirit, or someone who is lonely or grieving.

May the name hold within it all those who go unnamed.

We each name before you a person who is particularly affected by the pandemic.

May the name hold within it all those who go unnamed.

We each name before you a person who is living with insecure housing or legal status or the name of an organisation reaching out to them.

May the name hold within it all those who go unnamed.

We each name before you a place in the world where people are suffering.

May the name hold within it all those who go unnamed.

We each name before you a person whose name everyone knows.

May they use the influence they have to speak for those whose names are unknown.

And may we each use whatever influence we have to do the same. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the One who taught us to pray together 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 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.

Hymn 198 Let us build a house (verses 4,5)

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Words: Marty Haugen (b.1950)
Tune: Two Oaks

Blessing

As you journey into the week ahead, know that the One whose name is above all names, goes with you. May your spirit recognise the voice that is calling your name.

Journey ahead with these words of blessing:

'May the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.' Amen.

Organ *Plein jeu – Duo* (Magnificat Suite in G)

Jean-François Dandrieu

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Selda Dow
Scripture Reader: David Dow
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris
Cornet/piano and voice: David and Selda Dow
Piano and voice: Katie and James McNeill
The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West
Vocal ensemble: Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Tim Cooper, Drew Crichton, Andrew Carvel, James McNeill
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott
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