

St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 7 March 2021

Building Better



Music

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier BWV731

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Call to worship

The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
we gather to proclaim God's handiwork.

God's laws are perfect.

God's decrees are sure.

God's precepts are right.

God's commandments are clear.

God's ordinances are true.

God's awesomeness is pure.

**As we gather for worship this morning,
may the words of our mouths,
and the meditations of all our hearts, be acceptable to you,
our God, rock and redeemer.**

Hymn 522 The church is wherever God's people are praising

The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing they're wanted and loved by their Lord.

The Church is wherever Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.

The Church is wherever God's people are loving,
where all are forgiven and start once again,

where all are accepted, whatever their background,
whatever their past and whatever their pain.

The Church is wherever God's people are seeking
to reach out and touch folk wherever they are --
conveying the Gospel, its joy and its comfort,
to challenge, refresh, and excite and inspire.

The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing we're wanted and loved by our Lord.
The Church is where we as Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.

Carol Rose Ikeler (b.1920)

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God,
source of all light and truth.
We gather in hope and adoration.
Be with us as we strive
to live by your instruction.

We struggle to keep your commandments.
You said, 'listen, it's really quite simple:
love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind.
And love your neighbour as yourself'.

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have neglected to love you,
for the times we've neglected to love our neighbour,
for the times we've neglected to love ourselves.
Give us the boldness to love you
and all your people
more freely and more generously.

In the promise of freely given grace and forgiveness
let us, in silence, bring our own prayers to God:

Silence

May the silence be broken,
may we be forgiven and renewed,
and may we grow in love,
today and every day.
Amen.

We say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Scripture Reading Old Testament Exodus 20:1-17 (ICB)

Then God spoke all these words:

“I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves.

“You must not have any other gods except me.

“You must not make for yourselves any idols. Don’t make something that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. You must not worship or serve any idol. This is because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. A person may sin against me and hate me. I will punish his children, even his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But I will be very kind to thousands who love me and obey my commands.

“You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly. The Lord will punish anyone who is guilty and misuses his name.

“Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day. You may work and get everything done during six days each week. But the seventh day is a day of rest to honour the Lord your God. On that day no one may do any work: not you, your son or daughter, or your men or women slaves. Neither your animals nor the foreigners living in your cities may work. The reason is that in six days the Lord made everything. He made the sky, earth, sea and everything in them. And on the seventh day, he rested. So the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honour your father and your mother. Then you will live a long time in the land. The Lord your God is going to give you this land.

“You must not murder anyone.

“You must not be guilty of adultery.

“You must not steal.

“You must not tell lies about your neighbour in court.

“You must not want to take your neighbour’s house. You must not want his wife or his men or women slaves. You must not want his ox or his donkey. You must not want to take anything that belongs to your neighbour.”

Questions:

- 1 Who are the Israelites allowed to worship?
- 2 How many days in the week are the Israelites allowed to work?
- 3 Is it all right to take other people's possessions?

Ten Words

Ten words—
the Decalogue;
Love,
as I have loved you.
Love yourself.
Love others.

Ten words—
summed up in one:
Love.
Not a trap to trip you,
beat you down
or smother.

Ten words—
that show God's heart.
Love,
that guards and guides you;
seeks the best...
and where peace prospers.

Scripture Reading New Testament John 2:13-22 (NRSV)

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Hymn 253 Inspired by love and anger (vv 1-3)

Inspired by love and anger,
disturbed by need and pain,
informed of God's own bias,
we ponder once again:
'How long must some folk suffer?'

How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest
turn prayer and pity blind?’

From those forever victims
of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes
a litany of need:
‘Where are the fruits of justice?
Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners
and dreams find their release?’

From those forever shackled
to what their wealth can buy,
the fear of lost advantage
provokes the bitter cry:
‘Don't query our position!
Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited
by politics and stealth!

Reflection

Prayer of Commitment

**O Christ, you are within each of us.
It is not just the interior of the walls of our buildings,
it is our own inner being you have renewed.
We are your Church; your temple not made with human hands;
we are your body.
If every wall should crumble, and every church decay,
we are your habitation.
Nearer are you than breathing, closer than hands and feet.
Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
look out with compassion on the world.
So we bless you for this time together, for your directing of us,
your redeeming of us, your presence among us.
Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness
to where nations clash at the crossroads of the world.
So shall our Church building continue to be justified;
and your people find cause to bless your name. Amen.**

Hymn 253 Inspired by love and anger (vv 4-6)

To God, who through the prophets
proclaimed a different age,
we offer earth's indifference,
its agony and rage:
‘When will the wrongs be righted?
When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous

to all instead of some?’

God asks, ‘Who will go for me?
Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen,
will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome,
will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow,
will walk the road I show?’

Amused in someone's kitchen,
asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients
exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
a saviour without safety,
a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance
with fishermen and fools.

John L Bell (b. 1949)
Graham Maule (1958-2019)

Prayers for Others

Loving God,
we come before you in humility, seeking wisdom,
blessed by your eternal gift of love.

This past year has brought much grief and sorrow
to so many people in every part of the world.
Disease, conflict, natural and human-made disasters.
Injustice, greed and inequality persist.

We long for a fairer world
shaped by the life, love and example of Jesus.
Lord, help us to answer the call
not only to be witnesses of love, justice and peace
but to be activists for love, justice and peace.

All: Together, we can build better.

Political and social problems continue to plague
the lives of the poor and marginalised.
To those who have, is given more,
and to the have nots, even less.

We long for a fairer world
shaped by the life, love and example of Jesus.
Lord, help us to nurture a society where everyone feels
that they belong, that they are equal.

All: Together, we can build better.

We have squandered the resources you gave us,
usurped and exploited the land
and polluted the rivers and skies.
We value wealth and status
and denigrate lack of ambition.

We long for a fairer world
shaped by the life, love and example of Jesus.
Lord, help us to steward all that has been entrusted to us
with wisdom and compassion.

All: Together, we can build better.

Lord, when you ask:

“Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?”
“Who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?”
“Who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?”
“Who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?”

then give us the courage to answer with one voice:

All: We will.

Amen

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 adapted from the hymn by Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)
Tune: O Waly Waly

Closing Responses and Blessing

Christ has come to turn the world upside down;
to humble the powerful and lift up the lowly.

Christ has come to turn the tables;
to topple vain idols and stand with the poor.

Christ has come to turn the world upside down:
with a revolution of love.

With a framework of love to live by,
let us go in peace
to love our neighbour,
love the stranger
and love God.
With the grace of God,
the call of the Son
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit
this day and always. Amen.

Organ Music

Skye Boat Song

Robert Gower

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Diana Thurston Smith, Crispin Longden
Scripture Reader: Helen Hammond
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris
Singers: Eleanor Wilson, Tim Cooper
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott
Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

Image Shutterstock used under Licence

Spill the Beans issue 38 ©2021 Spill the Beans Resource Team

Seasons of the Spirit, Copyright © 2018 Wood Lake Publishing Inc.

Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community

Old Testament Scripture taken from the International Children's Bible®. Copyright©
1986,1988,1999 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Hymns used under licence from CCLI 247862

Streaming licence 351013

Answers to questions about the Ten Commandments:-

1. God
2. Six days
3. No

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

www.stagw.org.uk