

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 18 April 2021**

**Trusting New Life**



**Piano Music**

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

Miraculous God,  
you come to us now,  
even as your Risen Son came to those first disciples long ago.

Speak your peace to our hearts.  
Where doubt reigns, let faith grow.  
Where fear has laid claim, let hope be planted.

Touch us with your Holy Spirit,  
so we may live as your trusted and faithful disciples,  
witnesses to Risen Life in the days to come.

Come, let us worship the God of great miracles.

**Hymn            Great God, your love has called us here            (verses 1,2,5)**

Great God, your love has called us here,  
as we, by love for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind  
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,

by powers and systems close confined  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you set us free  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

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

Holy One,  
we gather before you this day,  
we come to meet you in this time of worship,  
we come to meet you in the risen Jesus,  
we come to wonder at the resurrection.

We experience the cycle of life and death,  
we trust in the truth of life eternal.  
Because of the resurrection of Jesus,  
we know that 'love shall never die'.

Our human minds are prone to doubt.  
Yet, through our doubts lead us, O God to new life  
and forgive us when we fail to see new life in the paths ahead,  
when we fail to see Christ with us, 'saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.'

We fear the cost to ourselves of faith and service,  
forgive us when we fail to choose the right path.  
Strengthen our resolve to believe,  
chase away all fear and give us courage to take up our cross and  
follow where Jesus leads,  
'till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.'

In the name of the Risen One 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.**

## **Trusting New Life: a Nepalese fable**

Once upon a time, there was a very beautiful island covered with flowers and trees, streams and ponds. It was like heaven on earth, peaceful and serene. All the birds and animals lived together happily for many years. However, as time passed the environment changed, there were no rains in the rainy season, and everything dried up and died. The island had suffered severely from drought. So the animals and birds decided to leave and look for a new place to live. A couple of geese and a tortoise lived on the island. They were best friends. The geese decided to leave and the tortoise wanted to go with them but, of course, she couldn't fly. So she asked the geese to help her.

This posed quite a challenge for the geese but they were very kind and after some thought they came up with a solution. They found a long stick and told the tortoise of their plan. They would hold the stick in their beaks and then the tortoise would grip the stick tightly with her teeth. They warned her not to open her mouth at any cost - to hold on tight. They flew together away from the island and eventually reached a city. The people were amazed when they looked up and saw two geese and a tortoise flying above them and they called to their friends to come and see the strange sight in the sky. All the commotion below disturbed the tortoise and distracted her so that she forgot what she had to do, she opened her mouth, let go of the stick and, of course, fell to the ground.

The ending to this story could have been different.

If only the tortoise had held on to the stick that was leading her to her future.

If only she had been able to trust, despite all the noise, that she was on her way to a new life with her friends.

Perhaps this story teaches us that sometimes we need to hold on to the new, and trust it. In our scripture reading this morning Jesus invites us to trust in the new life he is offering.

### **New Testament Reading**          Luke 24:36b-48

#### *Jesus Appears to His Disciples*

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

#### **Introduction to hymn**

## Hymn      Christ is Alive

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

## Reflection

### Prayers of the People

Life giver,  
we marvel at the make-up of our frail human bodies,  
entering the world as tiny, helpless babies and growing over the years,  
developing and changing in so many ways.  
Prone to illness and easily damaged yet graced with a life-force that is resilient.

**We trust in new life.**

**We trust that "love is making all things new."**

Jesus experienced what it feels like to be hungry, to suffer pain,  
to laugh and feel joy.  
Through his life, his death and his resurrection we see more clearly  
the pattern for our own living here on earth.

**We trust in new life.**

**We trust that "love is making all things new."**

Lord, you have created people of every kind,  
and each one represents a part of you.  
You have made some to make discoveries and to teach,  
some to tend the poor and sick,  
others to govern,  
some to assist the bereaved and lonely,

others to deal with business or finance,  
some to care for the abused and abuser,  
others to nurture children,  
some to guide the lost;  
for everything people need you have created a person to fill that role.

**We trust in new life.**

**We trust that "love is making all things new."**

Thank you, Lord, for all the people you have created and for all they do  
to make our world a better place.

Wherever in the world trust has been broken in the home,  
in the workplace, in politics and civic life,  
may we hold on, and hold out, for a better way

Help us to be all we can be,  
all you have made us to be,  
to trust, follow and serve wherever you lead. Amen.

**Hymn            The Summons            (verses 1, 2,5)**

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

## **Blessing**

May we go from here, full of hope and joy.  
May we go from here to 'be witnesses of these things'.  
Knowing that, through the resurrection, we are forgiven, loved and free.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
go in peace,  
go in joy,  
go in love. Amen

**Organ Music**

Praeludium in G BWV 541

J. S. Bach

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Judy Chapman, Arthur Chapman

Scripture Reader: Laura Shepherd

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Pianist: Drew Crichton

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

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

Photo Credit: Arthur Chapman

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Nepalese fable adapted from <https://www.apa.org/international/global-insights/stories-pandemic>

Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition

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.../ STAGW Vision for the Future



## ST ANDREW'S & ST GEORGE'S WEST 'ROOTS AND SHOOTS' - A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

### Our Vision

We want to see a fairer world shaped by the life, love and example of Jesus.

### Our Purpose

To learn and grow in faith as an open, loving community acting for justice and peace in the world.

### Our Aims

To achieve our purpose, we commit to:

1. Explore imaginative ways to worship, and to share and live faith.
2. Nurture an outward looking community where everyone feels they belong.
3. Work together to right injustice, to promote peace, and to respond to need.
4. Steward all that has been entrusted to us, with wisdom and compassion.

### Our Values

We commit to showing:

**Hospitality and inclusiveness.** Invitation, warm welcome and meaningful participation where everyone feels they can contribute.

**Creativity and imagination.** Being curious to learn, explore, and grow in faith.

**Co-operation and partnership.** Working with others in recognition of our shared responsibilities for community, society and the planet.

**Openness to diversity.** Appreciating the variety in life, aware that we are all connected.

**Integrity and kindness.** Being open and genuine in how we listen, communicate and act.