

St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 9 May 2021

Organising the Love



Floor of the chapel in at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine in London. The compass is encircled by the quote:

'We do not come to God by navigation but by love.' (St Augustine)

Music

Intermezzo Op. 117, No. 1

Johannes Brahms

Welcome

Call to worship

There is one word

Love

One way of living

Love

One place to abide

Love

One state of being

Love

One relationship to seek

Love

One God to find

Love

One word to use

Love

One gift to share

Love

One faith to find

Love

Come let us celebrate Love

and let it grow more between us.

Come let us worship.

Hymn We sing a love that sets all people free

We sing a love that sets all people free,
that blows like wind, that burns like scorching flame,
enfolds the earth, springs up like water clear:
come, living love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that seeks another's good,
that longs to serve and not to count the cost,
a love that, yielding, finds itself made new:
come, caring love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
to be itself, despite another's wrath,
a love that stands alone and undismayed:
come, strengthening love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that, wandering, will not rest
until it finds its way, its home, its source,
through joy and sadness pressing on refreshed:
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a burning, fiery Holy Ghost
that seeks out shades of ancient bitterness,
transfiguring these, as Christ in every heart:
come, joyful love, live in our hearts today.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, we open our hearts before you. We have forgotten how to love ourselves as you love us. We have forgotten how to love our neighbours as Christ loves us. We can be too busy with our worries. We long fully to rest in your love; forgive us when we falter.

Loving God, there are times when we abandon our gladness. There are times when we become desensitized to stories of abuse, abandonment, the realities of oppression and violence. We long to offer a helping hand to our neighbour. Forgive us when we falter.

Loving God, you have given us fresh air, greening spaces to grow food, waterways and oceans with clean water. There are times we waste our resources and put our desires above

your call to care for the natural world. We long to retune our hearts to the rhythms and needs of creation. Forgive us when we falter.

Loving God, there are times when we judge the beauty and worth of others and lose sight of the light of Christ in each. We long to be consistent in our approach to how we honour all whom you have created. Forgive us when we falter.

Our God of steadfast love is faithful and just. Our God knows our hearts and offers us peace.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

New Testament Reading John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

A disciple reflects on the new Commandment

Anthem Think of how God loves you!
He calls you his own children,
and that is what you are.
You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptised.
Alleluia!

Reflection **General Assembly 2021 – Organising the Love**

Hymn From Heaven's attendant host you came

From Heaven's attendant host you came
to meet and mend us on your knees;
the saviour-servant, still you plead,
"to know me, love the least of these."

And then to show the way, you turn
to those who do not know you yet,
and those whose value none have seen
or many see but soon forget.

Within the Church, built on your word,
the call to care finds central place.
Thus humble faith and human skill
combine, through you, as means of grace.

To this vocation now enlist
those in whose lives Christ is confessed;
inform each mind, inspire each heart,
through them may heaven and earth be blessed.

Prayers of the People

Almighty God, you tell us that love must be shown in deeds and not just words.
We pray for the transformation in the ways this world is organised so that it becomes fairer
and more just.

Renew the hearts of all public servants, especially those elected throughout Great Britain
this past week. May those entrusted with power speak up for those who have no voice and
those for whom exclusion is the norm. We pray especially for local representatives in
government. Bless our elected officials with a compassion for all this city's people, as well
as love for all this city can yet become.

As preparations continue for the Church of Scotland's General Assembly, grant vision and
strength. We pray for all involved in planning – particularly the Trustees and national staff
as well as commissioners, delegates, youth representatives, corresponding members, and
the incoming Moderator. Bless us all with hopes that vision and hopes for the national
church are both realistic and extravagant. Stave off both cynicism and burn-out. Help us
see the **shape of your plan in the gifts you have given us**. For your larger purpose, and in
your wisdom and grace you have placed us all together at this particular time and place.
We give thanks for the services of education, recreation, health, safety, and justice the
world over. May they be fair and equitable, devoid of the stench of sleaze and corruption.

God of north, south, east and west we pray:
for unity

- to place human kindness above national pride.
- to hear the Spirit's call to oppose discrimination.
- for those tormented by pain, anxiety or despair.
- for those who are no longer able to sleep in peace.
- for wisdom to make difficult decisions.
- that you will bring order out of chaos, as you did at creation.

- for the will to resolve disputes through means other than conflict.
- for the courage to risk defending the poor and angering the rich.

May all be attuned to the movement of the Spirit so we can each hear your call to a way of life which will enable us to love as you would wish, as only we can.

In our Saviour's name we ask and act. Amen.

Hymn From Heaven's attendant host you came (verse 5)

On every shoulder lay your hands
confirm the calling none deserves,
till all we say and all we do
reflect the Saviour whom we serve.

Blessing

Christ sends us forth saying:
Keep my commandments, abide in my love.

**We go forth in peace and justice
reflecting the Saviour we serve.**

Christ call us friends.

**As Christ's followers and friends
we share in Christ's work in the world.**

And may the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ.
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this day and evermore. Amen.

Organ Music *Plein jeu – Duo* (from Magnificat Suite in g) Jean-François Dandrieu

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, James McNeill

Scripture Reader: Christine MacPhail

A disciple reflects: Tim Cooper

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West

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

Pianist: Eleanor Wilson

Technical Team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott, Philippa Burgess

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

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Call to Worship, Spill the Beans Resource Team

'A disciple reflects' adapted from 'A new Commandment' in Spill the Beans issue 38

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Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version

Anthem: Words 1 John 3 and from the baptismal rite. Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959)

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition except 'From Heaven's attendant host you came' by John Bell and Graham Maule, from *Known Unknowns*, WGRG.
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St Andrew's & St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh. Charity SC008990
www.stagw.org.uk