

**St Andrew's and St George's West**

**Order of Service, 13 June 2021**

**God of potential, God of small beginnings**



**Organ Music**

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier Op 28

Marcel Dupré

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Chosen, not by order of age or rank, or wealth, or power.  
Chosen, simply, for God loves all humanity with equal attachment.

**In God's eyes all are beautiful, reflecting the complexion of God.  
All glow with the radiance of the One who died, as those who are forgiven,  
able to live freely and fully.**

Today we worship God

**As those who know the precious gift of being chosen and loved  
by the One who is Lord of all.**

**Hymn**

Take this moment, sign and space

Take this moment, sign, and space ;  
take my friends around ;  
here among us make the place  
where your love is found.

Take the time to call my name,  
take the time to mend  
who I am and what I've been,  
all I've failed to tend.

Take the tiredness of my days,  
take my past regret,  
letting your forgiveness touch  
all I can't forget.

Take the little child in me,  
scared of growing old ;  
help me here to find my worth  
made in Christ's own mould.

Take my talents, take my skills,  
take what's yet to be ;  
let my life be yours, and yet,  
let it still be me.

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

Spirit of God, settle in among us;  
look past our external features and peer inside our hearts.  
See us for who we really are: yours.  
Stubborn, doubting, self-centred and yet, ever yours.  
Grant us insight to see as you see,  
and the confidence to allow your unpredictable choices  
to lead us closer to you. Amen.

### **CONFESSION**

Trusting in God's forgiveness let us in silence confess our failings and acknowledge  
our part in the pain of the world.

### **SILENCE**

Before God, with the people of God,  
I confess to my brokenness:  
to the ways I wound my life,  
the lives of others and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love**  
Amen

**Before God, with the people of God,  
we confess to our brokenness:  
to the ways we wound our lives,  
the lives of others and the life of the world**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love  
**Amen**

#### AFFIRMATION

With the whole church  
**we affirm that we are made in God's image,  
befriended by Christ,  
empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere  
**we affirm God's goodness  
at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation  
**we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,  
the unfolding purposes of God,  
for ever at work in ourselves  
and the world. Amen**

#### 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.**

#### Old Testament Scripture Reading      1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you

come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

#### **Anthem      Ubi caritas**

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exulemus et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where love and loving kindness dwell,  
there God will ever be.  
Brought here together into one by Christ,  
now let us in His love rejoice  
and of His goodness sing.  
Here too let God, the living God, both loved and honoured be;  
and let us each the other love with true sincerity.

Free translation by Geoffrey Preston (1936-77)  
Music: Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

#### **New Testament Scripture Reading      Mark 4:26 – 34**

##### **The Parable of the Growing Seed**

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

##### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the

greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

### **The Use of Parables**

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Hymn**        In the bulb there is a flower

In the bulb there is a flower ;  
in the seed, an apple tree ;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise :  
butterflies will soon be free !  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody.  
There's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future,  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning ;  
in our time, infinity ;  
in our doubt there is believing ;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection ;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

### **Reflection**

**Hymn**        Christ's is the world in which we move

Christ's is the world in which we move ;  
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love ;  
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,  
and Christ is the one who meets us here.  
*To the lost Christ shows his face,  
to the unloved he gives his embrace,  
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

Feel for the people we most avoid —  
strange or bereaved or never employed.

Feel for the women and feel for the men  
who fear that their living is all in vain.

Feel for the parents who've lost their child,  
feel for the women whom men have defiled,  
feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,  
and feel for the weary who find no rest.

Feel for the lives by life confused,  
riddled with doubt, in loving abused ;  
feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,  
which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

## **Prayers for Others**

Like Samuel, we grieve over endings. There is not one sorrow we bear that you do not bear with us.

**Help us find comfort in your presence.**

Like Jesse, we overlook people whom you deem valuable. There is not one person you have created who is not worthy of your love and our respect.

**Help us see others the way you see them.**

Like David, help us be the people you have created us to be. There is not one moment when you doubt our abilities.

**Help us live into our gifts, the ones that come naturally and those needing nurture. Surprise us with your grace.**

Help, support, grant, remember.  
Hear the prayers we bring before you – spoken and unspoken:  
for your incredibly beautiful and fragile world;  
for our nation and all nations;  
for your church – changing, evolving, seeking to do your work;  
for families of every size and kind,  
and for ourselves.

We pray for the leaders of the G7 nations as they meet in Cornwall.  
Guide them to reach decisions with wisdom and compassion,  
to promote peace, justice and healing throughout the world.

We pray in silence for all those known to us who stand in special need of your help.

SILENCE

**Spirit of God, come mightily among us and receive our prayers.**

## Blessing and Sending

God of potential,  
God, who seeks,  
and finds,  
and chooses,  
God, who sees beyond the surface to the heart of all,  
you have chosen us to be your people.

As we leave this time and space  
help us to look at the world with your eyes:  
help us to see opportunities, not obstacles,  
possibilities and promise  
in unexpected people and places—  
may we so build up others,  
that we build your kingdom of heaven on earth.

### Organ Music

*Française* (from Suite Française)

Jean Langlais

Worship Leaders: Urzula Glienecke, Jocelyn and Michael Cunliffe

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

Vocal ensemble: Adrienne Burgess, Philippa Burgess, Frances Cooper, Seonaid Martin,  
Susan McLarty, Andrew Carvel, George Burgess, Mary Godden, Drew Crichton

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

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### Sources:

Image: Urzula Glienecke

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All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition

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