

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 8 August 2021
“The Wideness of God's Love”



Organ Music

Introit My life flows on

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation:
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

Welcome

Call to Worship

Loving God
We gather in worship today
Because You sought us and found us.

**We come as we are
knowing a place is prepared for us.**

**We bring what we have
to receive what You give to us.**

Bread of life for the world
Grow Your kingdom within us.

Amen

Opening Prayer

God who loves us, who hears us when we are joyful and who hears us when we despair, hear our prayers and songs this morning.

Be close to us as we worship in joy and in sorrow.

Help us to be close to each other, helping and supporting, and reflecting the love of Christ, we pray.

Amen

Hymn 601 Look upon us, blessed Lord (*Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*)

Look upon us, blessed Lord,
take our wandering thoughts and guide us:
we have come to hear your word:
with your teaching now provide us,
that, from earth's distractions turning,
we your message may be learning.

For your Spirit's radiance bright
we, assembled here, are hoping:
when we live without your light,
in the dark our souls are groping:
in word, deed, and thought direct us:
only you, Lord, can correct us.

Brightness of the Father's face,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
make us ready in this place:
ear and heart await your leading.
In our study, prayers, and praising,
may our souls find their upraising.

Prayer for Forgiveness

Choir: Spirit of Life, fill us with your love

Leader 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.

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

Leader Amen.

**All 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.**

Choir Spirit of Life, fill us with your love

Leader May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All Amen.

Hymn 485 Dear Lord and Father of mankind (omitting v 3)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise
in deeper reverence, praise

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.
rise up and follow thee.

With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.
as fell thy manna down.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!
O still small voice of calm!

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.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

Presentation to Brigitte and Andrew

Old Testament Reading Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

Reflection "Reading a psalm"

Anthem Be thou my vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art;
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, Ruler of all.

New Testament Reading John 6:35, 41-51

Voice 1 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. Anyone who comes to me will never be hungry, and anyone who believes in me will never be thirsty.....

Voice 2 Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said "I am the bread that came down from heaven".
Isn't this man Jesus, the son of Joseph and Mary? And we know them! So how can he say that he has come down from heaven?

- Voice 1 Jesus said, "Do not complain among yourselves. No-one can come to me unless he is drawn to me by the father who sent me. And I will raise that person up on the last day.
- Voice 2 It is written in the prophets - "and they shall all be taught by God". Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. No-one has seen the Father except the one who is from God – he has seen the Father. Truly I tell you, the person who believes has eternal life.
- Voice 1 I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and yet eventually they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that everyone may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

Reflection "Drawn by God"

Hymn 187 There's a wideness in God's mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea ;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven :
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
than the grasp of mortal mind ;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
we would take him at his word ;
and our lives be filled with glory
from the glory of the Lord.

Prayers for Others

Loving God our father, God of our hands and feet and minds and hearts,
God of our families, our friends, our neighbours, our nations.

Father, **Hear our prayer.**

Take our hands to make bread for other people, to give real food for those without enough,
and to create food for our souls and theirs, so that we can be happy and fulfilled.

Father, **Hear our prayer.**

Take our feet to help us tread lightly on this endangered earth, so that there is space,
water, food and clean air for all of us. Do not let us put our pleasure and comfort above
the life of our planet and all that is on it.

Father **Hear our prayer.**

Take our minds to look honestly at what we do, and what is being done in our name, and to realise what it is doing to other people.

Father, **Hear our prayer.**

Take our hearts and open them to the pain of other people, and also to their joy, so that we have no envy or resentment and we see clearly the reality of other people's lives.

Father, **Hear our prayer.**

Today we pray especially for our church, the people first of all, and the beauty that is in the building, the words and the music. We pray for our friends in Ahrweiler, after the terrible floods, without power or water, still searching for their dead, with churches, roads and bridges destroyed. We pray for everyone caught up in the terrifying results of climate chaos, forest fires, storms, heatwaves and ruined harvests. We pray for everyone who is ill, who is sad, who is lonely and adrift. Bring the gladness that is health, the patience that is beauty, and the love that is radiance.

Father, **Hear our prayer. Amen**

Hymn 125 Lord of all being, throned afar

Lord of all being, throned afar,
thy glory flames from sun and star ;
centre and soul of every sphere,
yet to each loving heart how near !

Sun of our life, thy quickening ray
sheds on our path the glow of day ;
Star of our hope, thy softened light
cheers the long watches of the night.

Our midnight is thy smile withdrawn,
our noontide is thy gracious dawn,
our rainbow arch thy mercy's sign ;
all, save the clouds of sin, are thine.

Lord of all life, below, above,
whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
before thy ever-blazing throne
we ask no lustre of our own.

Grant us thy truth to make us free,
and kindling hearts that burn for thee,
till all thy living altars claim
one holy light, one heavenly flame.

Sending

Let us speak the truth; be kind to one another.
Never let the sun go down on our anger;
never give evil room to manoeuvre.
And let us go out now into the world to share the bread of life,
confident in the love of God the Maker, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Blessing

Organ Music Praeludium in D BuxWV 139 Dietrich Buxtehude

Worship Leaders: Rev Neil Gardner, Alison Campbell, Crispin Longden
Scripture Readers: Carolyn Scott, Brigitte Harris
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris
Vocal ensemble: Frances Cooper, Mary Godden, Drew Crichton, Tim Cooper, Andrew Carvel, Caitlin McGillivray, Jamie Lang
Organist: Brigitte Harris
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Mary Margaret Scott
Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

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Scripture readings: New Revised Standard Version
Call to Worship: Church of Scotland Weekly Worship Resources
Opening Prayer: Seasons of the Spirit <https://www.seasonsonline.ca>
Prayer for Forgiveness: copyright The Iona Community from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, Wild Goose Publications <https://www.ionabooks.com>
Sending: adapted from Spill the Beans <https://www.spillthebeans.org.uk>

Introit: Words by Robert Lowry (1826 – 99) Music arranged by Andrew Carvel
Spirit of Life music arranged by Andrew Carvel
Anthem: Words early Irish, transl. Mary Burne (1880-1931) Music: Bob Chilcott
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