

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 22 August 2021**

A house for God



Organ music Prelude on Rhosymedre

R. Vaughan Williams

Welcome

Information Community Art Exhibition

Emily Addis

Call to worship

Lord, you are present with us.
Here in this space, as much as any space.
Here in this moment, as much as in any moment.
Here with us as we feel buoyant and hopeful,
as much as when weighed down and challenged
by life's complexities.

Your sanctuary is wherever we worship.

In the place we call Church,
in the place we call home,
and in the place we call creation.

All belongs to you,
and we find you wherever we are,
whenever we still our minds
and hearts to be at one with you.
We are ready now.
We are ready to be with you.

Hymn 608 Spirit of truth and grace

Spirit of truth and grace,
come to us in this place
as now in Jesus' name God's people gather.
Open our eyes to see
truths that will ever be,
and in communion draw us close together.

Spirit of joy and peace,
make all anxieties cease
with knowledge of the Father's perfect caring.
Then may God's children know
love that won't let us go
and joy that fills each day, beyond comparing.

Spirit of life and power,
revive us in this hour
and stir our hearts to praise with true devotion.
Fill us with heavenly fire,
and every heart inspire,
that we may serve the world with your compassion.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, you are infinite...mysterious...eternal, and yet you are with us always, but never in a way that can be proved - even to ourselves.

Forgive us, God if we have ever tried to scale you down to a more manageable size. Give us a fresh glimpse of your glory - as much as we can handle, and perhaps just a little bit more, then let us come and truly worship you.

Loving God, you fashioned us and made us and you know us through and through. When we had erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep you stretched out your hand and sent us your Son, who found us and who calls us now to be his presence here on earth.

Loving God, give us a fresh glimpse of your presence in every person we meet. In every place that we go, may the worship that we offer here and now draw us more deeply into the eternal mystery and assure us more profoundly of your abiding love.

These things we ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us when we pray, to say 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.**

Sharing the Peace

Scripture Reading: 1st Kings 8: 22-23, 25, 27-30

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart..... Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.'

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive."

A Retelling and a Prayer

Hymn 189 Be still

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now, with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found - we stand on holy ground,
Be still, for the presence of the Lord- the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight - our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him - in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

An Overview..... on the state of the Kirk.

Hymn 198 Let us build a house

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

A Reflection - A house for God

Dedication Of Offerings

Prayers of the People

Loving God, we give thanks for this place of worship,
Thank you for its beauty, and for the memories it holds;
the prayers and praises that have seeped into its walls.
Thank you for the people who worshipped here before us,
the ones whom we hope will come after us,
and those who are with us today.

This is a holy place, because we, your people, are in it;
when we leave, your church will go with us.

Loving God, we remember the people of Haiti after another deadly earthquake and pray for the safe transportation of humanitarian relief and equitable distribution of help to all victims.

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Creator God, we pray for the success of the COP26 Climate Conference soon to take place in Glasgow. Lord Jesus, love come down to earth, may we honour the earth, may we honour all that dwells in the earth, may we be reconciled with the earth.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Loving God, conscious of the peace of this place, we pray for those who have no peace because of war or the fear of war, or the threat of violence, or the grip of hunger, or the loss of hope. and especially at this time we remember the peoples of Afghanistan. May the voice of the victims be heard and the work of the peacemakers be blessed.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Eternal God, we pray for the peace and prosperity of your church throughout the world:
in places where the church is growing,
may they not mistake success for faithfulness;
in places where it is declining or even disappearing,
may we not panic and think you have abandoned us.
Remind us of Jesus, and of the troubles he faced.
Remind us of his strength, made perfect in weakness.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the life everlasting. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Hymn 622 We sing a love

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.

Closing responses

From gathered space in home or sanctuary,
virtual or in-person,

travel with us into this week.

May the presence of God be a blessing to us
and those with whom we meet,

may we live out that blessing.

May the hope of God never be contained or captured
but allowed to grow and thrive

**in our lives,
in our homes,
in our communities,
in our world.**

Benediction

Organ Music Caprice from the Premier Livre

L-N Clérambault

Worship Leaders: Rev Colin Douglas, Dorothy Tarrant and James McNeill

Scripture Reader: Dorothy Tarrant

Retelling: the Simon family

Musicians: James McNeill, Katie McNeill

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

Phillipa Burgess, Amy Marcham

Sources

Title image: Artist's impression of Solomon's temple: <http://israeltruths.org/history/solomontemple.jpg> via Kiddle Encyclopedia; CC-BY-4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Scripture readings taken from the New Revised Standard Version

Call to Worship, Prayers, Retelling and Closing Responses: Spill the Beans

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