

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 10 October 2021
The Drama of Job: The Patience of Job?



Preparing for Worship

'There is no room for homelessness in Scotland'

Scottish Churches Housing Action

Gathering music

Welcome

Centering call to worship

When nothing is right,
when we are weary and lost,
when clouds dull the sky,
help us to be still.

When our cries are unheeded,
when no effort bears fruit,
when the sun sets,
help us to be still.

When love is over,
when hope is gone,
when darkness covers the land,
help us to be still.

For in being still,
in refusing to panic or despair,
we shall come to know that God is here,

suffering alongside and with us,
waiting to show us stepping-stones through the swirling waters,
and to help us sing a new song.

Hymn

Paraphrase of Psalm 16

Keep me, Lord, for in your keeping
I have found security;
and, rejoicing in your presence,
know and own my destiny.
You, my God, my cup, my portion
plot my lifeline, chart my days;
well content with where you place me,
all your providence I praise.

I shall bless the Lord for giving
sound advice for broad daylight;
wisdom for my inmost being
God communicates by night.
So I set the Lord before me
holding fast to each command;
disregarding what dares shake me,
God I keep at my right hand.

Therefore body, mind and spirit
in serenity abound;
death and hell can never menace
those whose faith in God is found.
You, O gracious Lord, will show me
paths to all you have in store;
in your presence, in your purpose,
pleasures last forevermore.

Opening prayer

Holy God, who is both near and far,
within and beyond,
huge beyond measure and tiny as a mustard seed:
to you we come.

Our limited understanding seeks to name who you are and how you are
and all our words and all our images fall short.
Keep us mindful that all our words may fall short, but you never do.

Lord, we realise that we stumble along your way,
often two steps forward and one step back.
Stir our hearts to move more deeply in our walk with Jesus.
Prompt discomfort within us about living beyond our needs when others do not have
their basic needs met.
Forgive us when we shame others for the circumstances, they find themselves in,
and deflect attention from our complicity in creating those same circumstances.

In a moment of silence we bring before you where we have brought rupture rather than repair in your hurting world

(silence)

Loving God as we experience this time of worship together,
pour your Spirit out upon us.

Give us vision to see your justice coming to earth.

Give us love to respond to those who are in need.

Give us faith to believe that a different world is possible.

Lead us towards rapture.

To that end, hear us now as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught:

The Lord's Prayer (adapted from New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer)

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn Says Jesus, come and gather round (verses 1 and 2)

Says Jesus, 'Come and gather round.

I want to teach my friends

some truths about the love I bring,

the love that never ends.

Look to the child, here in your midst,

who has so much and more to say

of what it means to follow me,

to come and walk my way.'

Christ speaks to us who, growing old,

get burdened down with care ;

while caution reigns, we seldom see

God's presence everywhere.

He points to gifts that children bring —

the will to risk, the trust to dare,

through which, no matter where we are,

we'll find God always there.

Sofa Stories

The Rock Trust is marking 30 years of working supporting vulnerable and at-risk young people by bringing the issue of youth homelessness right into the core of our community.

Hymn Says Jesus, come and gather round (verses 3 and 4)

When was it that we first forgot
that questions helped us grow,
or lost the openness to ask
and learn what we don't know?
Christ points to gifts that children bring,
the searching heart and lively mind
which let God's kingdom grow in those
who seek until they find.

Lord Jesus, we have gathered round
to hear you teach your friends
the truths about the love you bring,
the love that never ends.
We look to children in our midst,
for they have much and more to say,
and join with them to follow you,
to live and walk your way.

Reading Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Then Job answered:

"Today also my complaint is bitter
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.
Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!
I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.
I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.
Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.
There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.
"If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;
on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;
If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!

Reflection

Hymn The truth that sets us free

When the wheel of fate is turning
and the mills of God grind slow,
when the past seems more attractive
than the future we don't know,
when our confidence is waning
and we lack security,
comes the timeless word of Jesus
that the truth will set us free.

Is it war or economics,
is it danger or deceit,
is it unforeseen depression,
fear of failure to compete?
Have the times which once were changing
led where no one wants to be?
Shall we live by lies on offer
or the truth that sets us free?

With real faith there will be doubting,
and with loss there will be grief.
No one knows the contradictions
which will exercise belief.
Against conflicts life might bring us,
God provides no guarantee,
just this word of hope and healing;
Know that truth will set you free.

So, dear Jesus, make us willing
to unmask convenient lies,
to protest wherever power
closes conscience, ears and eyes;
and release our expectations
of your kingdom yet to be,
born in courage joy and justice
and the truth that sets us free.

Prayers of the People

We pray for all children, and young people, women, and men, who are homeless this day. For those sleeping on sofas, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations, outside churches and high street shops. For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in. For those who have no place to keep possessions that remind them who they are.

We pray for those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime. For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent or anxious about the rising cost of living.

For all these people, we pray that they are provided with shelter, security, and hope. And that those of us comfortable in our warm houses are not lulled into complacency or forgetfulness.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We echo the words of the Moderator of our General Assembly and other faith leaders urging the UK Government to reverse the cut Universal Credit, forecast to tip millions of families into poverty. One in four recipients say they will have to skip meals, one in five will have to skip essential appointments and start using foodbanks. There is no shame in doing these things, the guilt is born by those who do nothing about it when they have the power to do so.

May each of us use the influence we have, knowing that each statistic represents a beloved child of yours.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Protect people, especially the most vulnerable, from Covid. We are mindful of those countries where the vaccination roll has yet to reach 10% of the population, not through lack of will but through lack of resources.

We give thanks for the development of a malaria vaccine for children after more than a century of trying. We give thanks for the skill and perseverance that brought this about, and the many thousands of children's lives that will be saved through it.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Today we hold before you...

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

In all that we are, and in all that we do help us to live in the unity of the body of Christ, as we follow you. Amen.

Hymn

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you for ever ;
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavour.

Lift up your eyes and see his face
and his grace for ever ;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you for ever.

Sending and Blessing

Christ with you,
Christ before you,
Christ behind you,
Christ in you,
Christ beneath you,
Christ above you,
Christ on your right,
Christ on your left,
Christ when you lie down,
Christ when you arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of you,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of you,
Christ in every eye that sees you,
Christ in every ear that hears you.

Music

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee and volunteer from the Rock Trust
Reader: Bill Mitchell
Prayers of the People: Danni Smith
Musician: Drew Crichton
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Technical team: Alison Bruce, Philippa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Susan McLarty,
Mary Margaret Scott

Scripture Reading: New Revised Standard Version
Lord's Prayer: adapted from the Anglican New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer
Centering call to worship written by Kate Compston. Posted on the Church of
Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>
Blessing: section of St Patrick's breastplate, adapted (traditional)
Hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition except: *Paraphrase of Psalm 16*, and *The
truth that sets us free* from Known Unknowns, John L Bell and Graham Maule, Wild
Goose Resource Group, 2018.
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