

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 24 October 2021
The Drama of Job: A 'happy' ending?**



Gathering music

Ronald Stevenson, Reflections on an Old Scots Psalm-Tune
Hugo Distler, Dreissig Spielstücke, Nos. 8–11

Welcome

Gathering words

Hidden One,
shrouded in mystery,
quietly revealed in nature,
in word, in song, in silence,
we come to you
in humility and
aware of our smallness.

You long to share with us,
to teach us and guide us,
if only we would learn to listen
and pay attention to you.

Help us to make time
to be still,
time to be in your presence,
quiet and aware,
using all our senses,
so that you may reveal
more and more of yourself
to us.

Hymn **O threefold God**

O threefold God of tender unity,
life's great unknown that binds and sets us free :
felt in our loving, greater than our thought,
you are the mystery found, the mystery sought.

O blaze of radiance, source of light that blinds,
fierce burning fire in clear prophetic minds,
you live in mystery, yet in us dwell ;
life springs from you as from a living well.

In every making, each creative dream,
and in the flowing of life's healing stream,
when love is born or people reconciled,
we share your life, O Parent, Spirit, Child.

O threefold God of tender unity,
life's great unknown that binds and sets us free :
felt in our loving, greater than our thought,
you are the mystery found, the mystery sought.

Opening prayer and 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 this day our daily bread and 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.**

The sharing of Christ's peace

God makes peace within us.
Let's claim it.

God makes peace between us.
Let's share it.

Let us offer each a sign of Christ's peace.

Old Testament Reading Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Then Job answered the LORD:

"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,

things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.'
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."

¹⁰ And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring.

The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers.

After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

Reflection Job's happy ending?

Hymn

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace ! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me !
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved ;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed !

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come ;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures ;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Guest speaker

Ojobo Ode Atuluku
Director, International Programmes, Christian Aid.

Prayers of the People

Hear us, O God, as we remember before you all those who, like Job, suffer through no fault of their own. We pray for members of this congregation, and for others known to us, who are experiencing the pain of losing a loved one. We pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or recovering from sickness or injury.

We pray for people with mental health difficulties, including those who are anxious or depressed.

Lord, be with them all to sustain and strengthen them.

We pray for people in countries where life is difficult because of natural disasters or human conflict. In particular, we remember Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Syria, Lebanon and Haiti.

We pray for the work of Christian Aid and other organisations helping to bring succour and hope to those who suffer. We pray for the resolution of conflicts, for the security and safety of citizens and of those who work to support them, and for the vulnerable who have no one to turn to but are seeking miracles daily.

Lord, be with them all to sustain and strengthen them.

In this time of climate crisis, we pray for those people who are already facing droughts, wildfires, floods and storms: grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

As we approach COP 26, we pray that those in power will listen to the voices of the powerless, who have most to lose from rising temperatures. Help the leaders to see beyond short-term political priorities, and give them wisdom and courage when they face difficult decisions.

Lord, be with them all to sustain and strengthen them.

We pray for ourselves, that we may be agents of change to bring about your kingdom on earth. Help us to work for peace, for healing, for a fairer sharing of the world's resources and for an end to man-made global warming. Help us to accept that the achievement of these things will require sacrifices in our own way of living.

Lord, be with us all to sustain and strengthen us.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us the way of love, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: We rejoice to be God's chosen

We rejoice to be God's chosen
not through virtue, work or skill,
but because God's love is generous,
unconformed to human will.

And because God's love is restless
like the surging of the sea,
we are pulled by heaven's dynamic
to become, not just to be.

We rejoice to be God's chosen,
to be gathered to God's side
not to build a pious ghetto
or be steeped in selfish pride,
but to celebrate the goodness
of the one who sets us free
from the smallness of our vision
to become, not just to be.

We rejoice to be God's chosen,
to align with heaven's intent,
to await where we are summoned
and accept where we are sent.
We rejoice to be God's chosen
and, amidst all that we see,
to anticipate with wonder
that the best is yet to be.

Sending

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this day and evermore. Amen.

Sending music

J. S. Bach, In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

Worship Leaders: Rev Dr Rosie Magee, Jocelyn and Michael Cunliffe
Guest speaker: Ojobo Ode Atuluku, Director, International Programmes, Christian Aid.

Musician: Alasdair Grant

Image: Christian Aid, used with permission.

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Philippa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

Gathering Words: Spill the Beans, Issue 40, page 88 (adapted)

Scripture Reading from the New Revised Standard Version

Hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition except: *We rejoice to be God's chosen*
from Known Unknowns, John L Bell and Graham Maule, Wild Goose Resource
Group, 2018.

Hymns used under licence from CCLI 247862

Streaming licence 351013

and ONE LICENSE #A-734408

St Andrew's & St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh
Charity SC008990
www.stagw.org.uk