

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 30 January 2022**

Living out loud



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Are you here for some peace?
Have you come for some rest?
Do you expect to be a passive bystander?
Well, be prepared to be stirred and shaken.
God has high expectations.
Come let us open ourselves up
to be moved by God.
Come let us worship with vigour.
Come let us worship God

Hymn Hail to the Lord's Anointed (vv1-4)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

For him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The mountain dews shall nourish
a seed, in weakness sown,
whose fruit shall spread and flourish
and shake like Lebanon.

Prayer of adoration and confessions and the Lord's Prayer

Almighty God,
we come before you with thanks
for your overflowing grace and love,
for your Word and your teaching,
for your signs and symbols,
guiding us towards a life lived in service to you,
our world, and each other.

Loving God, you have known us since before we were born.
Help us know you and recognise you in our encounters with others.
Help us also recognise ourselves.
We come, not as fully formed
or perfect people.
Rather we bring ourselves
as we truly are,
with our wonders and brokenness
our hopes and our fears.

Ever loving God,
we acknowledge our failings before you.
For where we have missed the mark,
and missed you in the process,
we are truly sorry.

We bring before you now, in a moment of silence, what lies heavy on our hearts
today

Silence

Lord, we can have confidence that you forgive us
not because we deserve it,
not because of who we are,
but because of who you are,
a forgiving, compassionate God.

You are also a God who calls us and equip us.
We are painfully aware of the ways others put themselves in personal danger to
follow you.

Those that have to make difficult decisions, that we may never have to make.

To honour them and you

help us grasp the ways that we *are* called to be brave

- ways that pull us out of our comfort zone, rather than further into it

- ways that make us upstanders rather than bystanders

- ways that transform us and help transform the world.

May we be strengthened and empowered to do so by the words of Jesus.

The one who taught us to live our praise out loud, praying 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 Christ's Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (The Message)

This is what God said:

“Before I shaped you in the womb,
I knew all about you.
Before you saw the light of day,
I had holy plans for you:
A prophet to the nations—
that’s what I had in mind for you.”

But I said, “Hold it, Master God! Look at me.
I don’t know anything. I’m only a boy!”

God told me, “Don’t say, ‘I’m only a boy.’
I’ll tell you where to go and you’ll go there.
I’ll tell you what to say and you’ll say it.
Don’t be afraid of a soul.
I’ll be right there, looking after you.”
God’s Decree.

God reached out, touched my mouth, and said,
“Look! I’ve just put my words in your mouth—hand-delivered!
See what I’ve done? I’ve given you a job to do
among nations and governments—a red-letter day!
Your job is to pull up and tear down,
take apart and demolish,
And then start over,
building and planting.”

Luke 4:21-30

Then he (Jesus) began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, ‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’ He said to them, ‘Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Doctor, cure yourself!” And you will say, “Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.”’

And he said, ‘Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.’

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Holy challenges, holy encounters

Hymn God Bless the Poet's Heart and Hand

God, bless the poet's heart and hand,
creating songs of faith and praise;
Yet may each writer understand
our words cannot contain your ways.

God, bless the ones who boldly dare
to let the scriptures be their guide;
Yet may no one of us declare
that you are always on our side.

God, bless the ones who teach and learn,
who seek the truth by which to live;
Yet show us: Knowledge cannot earn
the love that only you can give.

God bless the ones who daily lead
your churches, cities, nations, too;
Yet may these leaders humbly see
their need to serve and follow you.

In Christ we daily live and grow;
your Spirit guides us by your grace.
A mirrored image now we know,
yet one day we'll see face to face.

Dedication of offerings

**Gracious and holy God,
accept all that we offer to you:
our resources of money, time and talent,
our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our lives.**

**Bless and transform all that we offer
and all that we are wise to hold back,
that new life may be celebrated and shared in Jesus' name. Amen**

In conversation with.... Rev Dr Urzula Glieneke,
Associate chaplain, University of Edinburgh

Hymn Inspired by love and anger (vv1,2,5,6)

Inspired by love and anger,
disturbed by need and pain,
informed of God's own bias,
we ponder once again:
'How long must some folk suffer?
How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest
turn prayer and pity blind?'

From those for ever victims
of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes

a litany of need :
'Where are the fruits of justice ?
Where are the signs of peace ?
When is the day when prisoners
and dreams find their release ?'

God asks, 'Who will go for me ?
Who will extend my reach ?
And who, when few will listen,
will prophesy and preach ?
And who, when few bid welcome,
will offer all they know ?
And who, when few dare follow,
will walk the road I show ?'

Amused in someone's kitchen,
asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients
exposed, proclaimed, and wrote,
a saviour without safety,
a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance
with fishermen and fools.

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Hymn There's a spirit in the air (vv 1,2,5,6)

There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere :
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world !'

Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done :
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today !

When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today !

A Franciscan blessing

May God bless you with discomfort...
at easy answers, hard hearts,
half-truths, and superficial relationships
so that you may live deep within your heart.
May God bless you with anger...
at injustice, oppression,

and exploitation of people.
so that you may work for
justice, freedom, and peace.

And may God bless you with
enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference
in the world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done.

Trinitarian Benediction (Latvian/English)

Sending music

Worship leaders: Rosie Magee, Urzula Glieneke

Organist and pianist: Jamie Turnbull

Scripture reader: Elizabeth Mackay

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott, Ruth Forrester,
Phillipa Burgess, Amy Marcham

Sources:

Image: Church in Riga used as a hospital (1991). <https://www.rsu.lv/aktualitates/barikazu-laiks-bijusa-rsu-doc-anatolija-nikitina-atminu-stasts>. Permission granted for educational and non-profit use.

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Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.

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