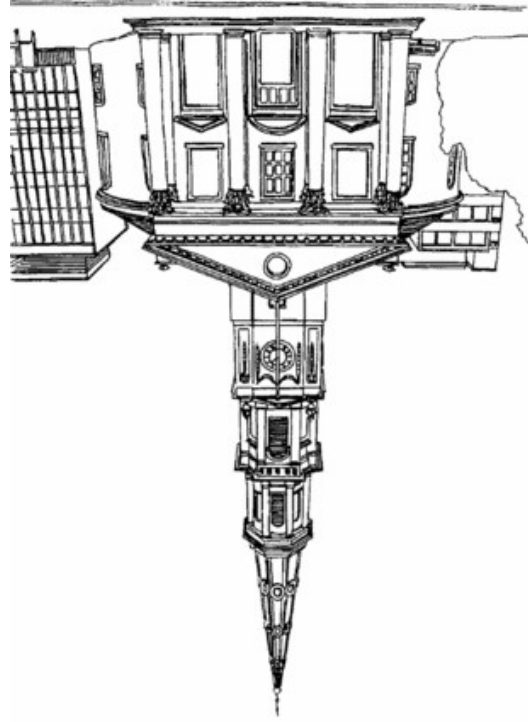


**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 13 February 2022**

**Upside-down blessings**



**Gathering music**

**Welcome**

**Call to worship**

Gathered,  
not in order of rank,  
title, or wealth,  
but blessed by the God  
for whom all are equal.

Gathered,  
not because we are special  
or live life mistake-free,  
but blessed by the God  
for whom all are equal.

Touched today  
by the Spirit of God,  
whether here in-person  
or remote worshipping.  
Blessed by the God  
for whom all are equal.

## Hymn

## Psalm 1

How blest are those who do not stray,  
led by the wicked's talk ;  
who will not with the sinful stand,  
nor sit where scoffers mock.

The teaching of the Lord their God  
they follow with delight,  
and meditate upon his word  
with gladness day and night.

They flourish like well-watered trees  
set by a riverside,  
whose fruit matures, whose leaves remain —  
they prosper and abide.

The wicked, like the straw and chaff  
by wind blown far away,  
can have no place among the just  
nor stand on judgement day.

The Lord will guard the righteous well,  
he knows the way they take ;  
but doomed to perish is the way  
the wicked undertake.

## Opening Prayer

Prompting thoughts:

In what ways are you most aware of God's blessing?

In what ways are you most aware of being a blessing?

In what ways have you missed the opportunity to be a blessing?

(and repeat)

## 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 the Peace

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

## Dedication of offerings

**Generous God,  
may the gifts we offer  
be a source of blessing to others.  
We give from what you first gave us.  
May our giving reflect the fact that  
you gave your very self for us  
and may we desire only the power of Christ's resurrecting love.  
Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Psalm 1

The Message

How well God must like you—  
you don't walk in the ruts of those blind-as-bats,  
you don't stand with the good-for-nothings,  
you don't take your seat among the know-it-alls.  
Instead you thrill to GOD's Word,  
you chew on Scripture day and night.

You're a tree replanted in Eden,  
bearing fresh fruit every month,  
never dropping a leaf,  
always in blossom.  
You're not at all like the wicked,  
who are mere windblown dust—  
without defence in court,  
unfit company for innocent people.

GOD charts the road you take.  
The road *they* take leads to nowhere.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17-26

He (Jesus) came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.  
“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

**Anthem** God be in my head, and in my understanding

Book of Hours, 1514

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

**Reflection**      **Upside-down blessings**

**Hymn**            Blessed Disturbance!

Blessed disturbance! God speaks the Word.  
‘Let there be light!’ in the darkness is heard.  
Cosmic explosion; life has begun.  
Praise to Creator, Spirit and Son!  
Sunshine by day and moonlight by night;  
everything new is a source of delight.  
Fish in the oceans, birds in the trees;  
woman and man give thanks for all these.

Blessed disturbance! ‘Come, follow me.  
Leave what is past—create what’s to be.’  
Sinners respond while good folk say ‘no’;  
praise to the Son for making it so!  
Goodbye to riches; welcome true wealth!  
Goodbye to sickness; welcome true health!  
Goodbye to all that binds us to earth;  
goodbye religion—welcome new birth!

Blessed disturbance! God’s here to stay,  
subtly transforming work, rest and play.  
Spirit of justice, laughter and love,  
wily as serpent, gentle as dove.  
God of surprises, disturb us again;  
speak to our fears with your presence, and then,  
Heavenly Gadfly, sting us to life!  
Help at our birthing, heavenly Midwife.

## Prayers of the People

### Sung response

**Lord of life, we come to you.  
Lord of all, our Saviour be,  
come to bless and to heal  
with the light of your love.**

Gracious God, you call us to be like trees planted by streams of water. Planted firm in our faith, we offer you our praises. In our worship, we seek to glorify you – to tell through song and shouts of praise that you are a great and loving God, that you bless us with your presence, and that we are overjoyed to be your people.

### **Lord of life...**

The fires of your passionate spirit burn within us. As we know, you care for all of your people, so we offer to you the concerns that are upon our hearts: for the sick and hurting, for the grieving and anxious, for the oppressed and downtrodden. We ask you to be with your people, all of your people – those we know and those we do not know. Help us all to feel your all-embracing love.

### **Lord of life...**

We trust in your presence, loving God. Help us share justly of our resources and be good and faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us. And help us to share smiles, compassion, concern, forgiveness, and hope with those we meet each day.

Give us eyes to see blessings, however upside-down and inside-out they may appear to us.

Give us your understanding as to how we can help to put things the right way up.

### **Lord of life...**

Help us never to forget your presence in our lives. May we sense you with us always, and so be moved to live in your ways. Help us to have faith in you, that like trees planted by the water. Our faith is grounded in the knowledge of your love for us.

**Amen.**

### Hymn

Beauty for brokenness (vv1,2,4,5)

Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in the suffering  
this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset  
your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen,  
trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray,  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams,  
plundered and poisoned,  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed ;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame,  
until your justice  
burns brightly again ;  
until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray,  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

### **Sending and blessing**

Go out from here  
as a messenger.

A messenger of the of the upside-down blessings  
of God's upside-down kingdom,  
where needs are met in miraculous and surprising ways,  
and there is grace enough for all.  
And may the blessings of God,  
known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
surround you and sustain you this day and evermore. Amen.

## Sending music



Worship Leaders: Jocelyn and Michael Cunliffe, Rosie Magee

Organist and pianist: Jamie Turnbull

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

Sources:

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

Prayers of the People adapted from 'Seasons of the Spirit' © Seasons of the Spirit 2022

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