

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 13 March, 2022
Foxes and Hens**



'Feather'

Gathering music

Welcome and notices

Call to worship

The Lord reigns forever, and rules the nations with fairness.

The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Sing praises to the Lord who reigns in Jerusalem;

Tell the world about God's unforgettable deeds.

The needy will not be ignored forever;

The hopes of the poor will not always be crushed.

Let us worship God!

Hymn Source and sovereign, rock and cloud

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud,
Fortress, Fountain, Shelter, Light,
Judge, Defender, Mercy, Might,
Life whose life all life endowed .

*May the Church at prayer recall
that no single holy name
but the truth that feeds them all
is the God whom we proclaim.*

Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine,
Shepherd, Saviour, Servant, Lamb,
Well and Water, Bread and Wine,
Way who leads us to I AM .

Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove,
Thunder, Tempest, Whirlwind, Fire,
Comfort, Counsellor, Presence, Love,
Energies that never tire.

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Living God,
magnificent and mysterious,
there is no place where you are not.
You are with those huddled in cellars this day
to avoid the bombs raining down on them.
We are thankful you are just as present with us.
You are with those who woke with no roof over their head this morning
We are thankful you are just as present with us.

Protect us from all that separates us from you and from one another.
Protect us from forces that seek to divide and separate.
It is easy, O God,
to see where others have gone wrong;
not so easy to admit
to our own faults and failings.
We dishonor you
in thought, word and, deed
through our treatment of others.
We honor you
when we come here with the desire to worship
at the forefront of our minds.

For the sin of indifference, forgive us.
For secret complicity, forgive us.
For the closing of borders and minds, forgive us.
For the turning away, forgive us.

(silence)

Mothering God, draw us into the warmth of your embrace
and hold us until our anger
and confusion and fear begin to dwindle
so we can go back out
into the world again
ready to see other people,
to see all people,
through your eyes of compassion and grace.

Thus may our journey with Jesus,
be, not a journey towards death,
but a journey into life and hope and healing
for the sake of a hurting world.

May this desire of our hearts be strengthened by our praying together the
words that Jesus taught saying:

**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

Universal Prayer for Peace

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth;
lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust;
lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.
Peace, peace, peace.**

We exchange a sign of peace with one another

Scripture Reading Psalm 27 (read responsively, beginning and ending with a Taizé chant)

Taizé chant: Wait for the Lord (played once, then sung once)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near
Wait for the Lord: be strong take heart.

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

⁶ Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

¹² Do not give me up to the will of my
adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness
of the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Taizé chant: Wait for the Lord (played once, then sung once)

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**

Prayers of the People

Lord Jesus we are awed by your ability to keep focused; to hold fast to choices, even when you could see what the cost would be. You walked towards trouble, towards people who cried out in pain, suffering and torment and you offered healing and hope, and a kind of courage we have yet to learn. We pray for all who, like you, refuse to stop caring for others even in the most challenging circumstances

**We will not turn away, we will stand together.
Lord give us strength to protect people and promote peace.**

As the suffering, the fear, the waste and destruction in Ukraine eddies across the globe, the cries for help must not go unheard. Give us the courage to stand with the Ukrainian people and the people of Russia, for they all live under the weight of an oppressive power that cannot be allowed to prevail, to assault humanity and all the earth.

**We will not turn away, we will stand together.
Lord give us strength to protect people and promote peace.**

We pray for world leaders, politicians and civil servants, for charity and aid workers, doctors, teachers and carers, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices in these most complex of times.

**We will not turn away, we will stand together.
Lord give us strength to protect people and promote peace.**

We pray for parents, trying to give their children a firm foundation in life, safety and protection especially those for who are struggling themselves and have had their lives torn apart.

**We will not turn away, we will stand together.
Lord give us strength to protect people and promote peace.**

We pray for those who have lost their sense of purpose and direction, been let down too often; and for those, ourselves included, who cannot bear to watch or listen to the news, seeing too many problems that cannot be solved and too many people beyond our reach to help.

**We will not turn away, we will stand together.
Lord give us strength to protect people and promote peace.**

As glimmers of Spring emerge, we pray for our church, our community and those recently bereaved or coping with illness in their family: that in this time of Lent, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

**We will not turn away, we will stand together.
Lord give us strength to protect people and promote peace. Amen.**

Hymn In Christ there is no east or west

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find,
his service is the golden cord
close-binding human kind.

Come, brothers, sisters of the faith,
whate'er your race may be :
whoever does my Father's will
is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north,
all Christ-like souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

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.

Threefold Amen

Sending music

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, Sally and Nick Evans

Musician: Jamie Turnbull

Reader: George Burgess

Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West

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

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Scripture Readings from the New Revised Standard Version

Opening prayer adapted from Spill the Beans, © Spill the Beans Resource Team.

'He had made his choice' Spill the Beans, v43, © Spill the Beans Resource Team.

'Prayers of the People' drawn from "A Prayer in Time of War", Prayers for Ukraine from Christian Aid (Sally Foster-Fulton) and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and Spill the Beans

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