

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 20th March, 2022**

Fig trees and Fruitfulness



Gathering music Ludwig van Beethoven - "Allegro", from Sonatina in F, No 2,
Ludwig van Beethoven - "Für Elise"

Welcome and Notices

Call to worship

Hungry for righteousness,
thirsting for justice,
for ourselves and for others,
**we come seeking God, who is our refuge,
and find him waiting to welcome us.**

Yearning for peace,
longing for harmony,
in our lives and in our world,
**we turn to God, who is our hope,
to wonder at his power and glory,
to marvel at his compassion and care.**

In the lonely watches of the night
and in the sometimes harsh light of day
**God is our help and strength,
whose right hand upholds us
and who inspires our songs of joy.**

Hymn 129 The Lord is King! lift up your voice (from Psalm 148)

1 The Lord is King! lift up your voice!
Let earth and all the heavens rejoice.
From world to world the joy shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'

2 The Lord is King! who then shall dare
resist his will, distrust his care,
or murmur at his wise decrees,
or doubt his royal promises?

3 The Lord is King! child of the dust,
the judge of all the earth is just;
holy and true are all his ways:
let every creature speak his praise.

4 Come, make your wants, your burdens known;
Christ will present them at the throne;
for he is at the Father's side,
the Man of Love, the Crucified.

5 One Lord, one empire, all secures;
he reigns, and life and death are yours;
through earth and heaven one song shall ring,
'The Lord omnipotent is King!'

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 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.**

Who counts?

Dedication of offerings

Bountiful God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. As we offer here our gifts of money, so too we offer our talents and time,

and the work of our hands and our hearts.

**Whatever we bring, Lord, and whoever we are, we ask that you will take our offerings and use them for the sharing of the Good News of Christ in and for our world,
Amen**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you;
not as the world gives give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled – neither let it be afraid."

Let us greet one another in Christ's name and share a sign of peace

Hymn 721 We lay our broken world

1 We lay our broken world
in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war and fear,
oppressed by power and hate.

2 Here human life seems less
than profit, might and pride,
though to unite us all in you
you lived and loved and died.

3 We bring our broken towns,
our neighbours hurt and bruised;
you show us how old pain and wounds
for new life can be used.

4 We bring our broken loves,
friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see
that love must be reborn.

5 We bring our broken selves,
confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing grace
new purpose is inspired.

6 Come, Spirit, on us breathe,
with life and strength anew;
find in us love, and hope, and trust,
and lift us up to you.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Scripture Reading Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?' ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?' ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

⁶ Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸ He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Reflection

Hymn **685 For everyone born, a place at the table**

1 For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,
*And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

2 For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair.

3 For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

4 For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

5 For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

Prayers

There will be pauses to allow for us to add our own prayers; and for the call and response -
Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We thank you, our God, for the beauty which surrounds us; the fragile flowers emerging from the dark, cold earth, for blue skies, blossom on bush and tree; birdsong - the arrival of Spring. The kept promise of new life after cold, short, winter days.

We remember those for whom the arrival of spring is overshadowed by conflict and destruction; and hold them before you now.

We thank you for those who teach and guide us, at church, in school, at work; and hold before you our ministers, Rosie and Colin; and Dorothy who leads our worship today.

We ask for your blessing on others who faithfully work for the health of this church – our Session Clerk, Crispin; those who administer, those who pray, those who clean and repair; cooks and servers in the Undercroft; musicians, those who welcome at our door.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We hold before you people in power, here in Edinburgh, at Westminster, and more widely in the world. We ask that they may be inspired to choose wisely in an environment which is so very challenging; that a path may be found which brings not only an end to current conflict, but a way of living which is closer to that which you intend for your creation.

We pray for those near to us; family and friends. And remember those whose families are separated, or broken in other ways. We give thanks for opportunities to befriend and support asylum seekers in our communities and through Aid organisations. Help us to see our opportunities to help those struggling with new and strange environments.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We see the devastation being wreaked in Ukraine, in Afghanistan, in Yemen and other parts of the world. We can only imagine the fear and hurt; we know that in conflict there are victims on every side. We know there have been terrible wars throughout history, as humans fall into using violence. We hear Isaiah's words from millennia ago and ask for repentance on all our parts, that conflict may be resolved as we hear your promises and return to your thoughts and your ways.

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.

Amen

Hymn 497 Almighty Father of all things that be

1 Almighty Father of all things that be,
our life, our work we consecrate to thee,
whose heavens declare thy glory from above,
whose earth below is witness to thy love.

2 For well we know this weary, fallen earth
is yet thine own by right of its new birth,
since that great cross upreared on Calvary
redeemed it from its fault and shame to thee.

3 Thine still the changeful beauty of the hills,
the purple valleys flecked with silver rills,
the ocean glistening 'neath the golden rays:
they all are thine, and voiceless speak thy praise.

4 Thou dost the strength to worker's arms impart;
from thee the skilled musician's mystic art,
the grace of poet's pen or painter's hand
to teach the loveliness of sea and land.

5 Then grant us, Lord, in all things thee to own,
to dwell within the shadow of thy throne,
to speak and work, to think and live, and move,
reflecting thine own nature, which is love:

6 That so, by Christ redeemed from sin and shame,
and hallowed by thy Spirit's cleansing flame,
ourselves, our work, and all our powers may be
a sacrifice acceptable to thee.

Sending and blessing

Sung Response Threefold Amen

Sending music G F Handel - "March" from the Overture to the Occasional Oratorio

Worship Leaders: Dorothy Anderson and Katie McNeill

Scripture Reader: Katie McNeill

Musicians: Selda Dow and David Dow

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.

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