

St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 3 April 2022

Perfume and poverty



Gathering music

Prélude Modal op.6

Jean Langlais

Welcome

Call to worship

What's that in the air?

Mary poured her perfume on Jesus' feet and then wiped his feet with her hair.
She filled the air with the fragrance of her worship.

Prayers are like rising incense before God.

The fragrance of their worship fills the air.

Today, let us raise a praise that touches the heart of God.

Let the fragrance of our worship aspire to heaven.

Hymn Be thou my Vision

- 1 Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart ;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art ;
thou my best thought in the day or the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my Wisdom, be thou my true Word ;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord ;
thou my great Father : thine own I would be ;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

- 4 Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always ;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 High King of Heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun !
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
We come this day to worship you
And to be filled afresh with your Spirit.
We come to be together
and we come to offer ourselves to you.

O God, you are one the through whom nothing is lost,
nothing is wasted.
Take what we regard as useless in our lives,
failure, pain or poverty
and transform them through your power
to become a rich source of growth.

O God you are one through whom nothing is lost,
nothing is wasted.
Take what we store, for 'safe keeping'
and help us pour it out
in an embarrassment of lavish grace
wherever we see the body of Christ
still broken in this world.
For you know what it is to give without counting the cost.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer 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 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.**

People of the perfume

Sharing the Peace

'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God'.

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.
May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Scripture Reading John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Reflection

Hymn I will offer up my life in spirit and truth

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love, as my worship to you
In surrender I must give my every part
Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart

You deserve my every breath, for You've paid the great cost
Giving up your life to death, even death on the cross
You took all my shame away, there defeated my sin
Open up the gates of heaven and have beckoned me in

Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
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Perfume and poverty

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, how you bless us. You have poured your love upon us like the finest perfume. All that we are, all that we have comes from you. We offer ourselves, our time, our resources, our skills. Take and bless these gifts, we pray, and so may your kingdom come. Amen.

Hymn How deep the Father's love for us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Prayers of the people

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Prayer for Peace

Written in collaboration with the Russian Orthodox Church

Christian Aid have shared the following prayer to be prayed today in churches throughout Britain and Ireland. 'Together as Christians in these islands and with our sisters and brothers in the churches of Ukraine, we pray for an end to the conflict and for peace in our world.'

God of all peoples and nations,
who created all things alive and breathing,
united and whole,

show us the way of peace that is your overwhelming presence.
We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia,
every child and every adult.
We long for the time
when weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares
when nations no longer lift up sword against nation.

We cry out to you for peace;
Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones
Be with those who are bereaved.
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression
and fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.
Kindle again in us a love of our neighbour,
and a passion for justice to prevail
and a renewed recognition that we all play a part in peace.
Creator of all, hear our prayer
and bring us peace. Make us whole.
Amen.

Hymn Moved by the Gospel, let us move

- 1 Moved by the Gospel, let us move
 with every gift and art.
 The image of creative love
 indwells each human heart.
 The Maker calls creation good,
 so let us now express
 with sound and colour, stone and wood,
 the shape of holiness.
- 2 Let weavers form from broken strands
 a tapestry of prayer.
 Let artists paint with skilful hands
 their joy, lament, and care.
 Then mime the story : Christ has come.
 With reverence dance the word.
 With flute and organ, gong and drum
 God's praise be ever heard.
- 3 O Spirit, breathe among us here ;
 inspire the work we do.
 May hands and voices, eye and ear
 attest to life made new.
 In worship and in daily strife
 create among us still.
 Great Artist, form our common life
 according to your will.

Sending and blessing

As we go from here
may we act like Mary,

**and love as she did:
generously,
extravagantly,
wastefully!**

May the eye of God dwell with you,
the foot of Christ guide you,
the Spirit pour over you, richly and generously,
and bathe you in grace.

Response: Threefold Amen

Sending music

Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist BWV 671

J.S Bach

Worship Leaders: Lorna Cammock, Veronica Crerar, Rev Rosie Magee

Scripture Reader: James Crerar

Organist/pianist: George Barrett

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

Sources:

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