

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 26 June 2022**

The freedom of the Spirit



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Jesus calls us to meet him here,
we gather as brothers and sisters in Christ.
We come as we are,
to offer ourselves to God.
In the weight of chains we've come to befriend,
God lures us into an unimaginable freedom.
In the very moments when it seems most impossible,
God calls our hearts to blossom with love.
This is the God we have gathered to worship.

Hymn Praise with joy

Tune Lauda Anima

1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,

source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory –
power to rescue and release.

2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
clothes the naked, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless of both fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence –
friend and stranger, guest, and host.
3. Praise the Spirit sent among us
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –
foolishness none dare deride.
4. Praise the Maker, Son, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God of all grace,
we come before you this day,
in our homes and in this building,
giving thanks for your presence
and giving thanks
for your presence.
You are a God of Community
so, we give thanks for community
and its many expressions.
God of all love,
be with us in our struggles,
guide us in our choices,
love us in our mistakes.
God of all forgiveness,
we come before you as we are,
made up of all our choices,
our tests and trials,
our highs and lows,
our fears and doubts.
Forgive us, we pray,
for all those things
we each bring to you now

(silence)

Trusting in your forgiveness we
have the confidence to pray 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 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.**

A tree bearing fruit

Thanksgiving for the ministry of Louise Holden, Albany Deaf Church

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you
and also with you

Hymn 644 O Jesus, I have promised

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end ;
be now and always near me,
my master and my friend :
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.
- 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will ;
Oh, speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control ;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory

your servant shall be too ;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end :
now give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

Scripture reading

Galatians 5:13-18, 22-25

The Message

¹³⁻¹⁵ It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are contrary to each other, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?...

²²⁻²³ But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

²³⁻²⁴ Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

²⁵ Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

Anthem

Cantate Domino

by G O Pitoni

Cantate Domino canticum novum: laus eius in ecclesia sanctorum.
Laetetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum: et filiae Sion exultent in rege suo.

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of his loyal servants.
Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the people of Zion exult in their king.

Psalm 149 v1-2

Reflection

Poem

Pentecost

by Malcolm Guite

1. Pray for a world where every child
finds welcome in a sheltered place,
where love is tender, undefiled
and firmness intertwines with grace.
2. Pray for a world where passion's fire
burns not in force or careless lust,
where God's good gift of deep desire
is safe in arms of faith and trust.
3. Pray for a nation just and fair
that seeks the welfare of us all,
where leaders guide with prudent care
and nurture life for great and small.
4. Pray for a world where all have voice
and none will batter, rape, abuse.
Till then, may all have rightful choice
and pray for wisdom as they choose.

Prayers of the People

Lord, meet us in the silence
and hear our prayer

Hymn 616 There's a spirit in the air

- 1 There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere :
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world !'
- 2 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 !
- 5 When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.
- 6 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 !

Blessing

Threefold Amen

Sending music

Worship Leader: Dorothy and Alastair MacKenzie, Rev Rosie Magee

Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

BSL Interpreter: Mary McDevitt

The choir of St Andrew's and St George's West

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott,

Phillipa Burgess, Amy Marcham

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

Poem 'Pentecost' by Malcolm Guite from: Sounding the Seasons: Seventy sonnets for the Christian year, 2012, Canterbury Press.

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition except 'Praise with Joy' by John Bell and

Graham Maule, from 'Known Unknowns' 2018 Wild Goose Resource Group

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