

St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, August 30, 2020



**Preparing for Worship**

Be still and know that I am God  
Be still and know that I am  
Be still and know  
Be still  
Be

Psalm 46 v10

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Seasons of the Spirit

Look, over there, the spark of God's presence calls to us.

**We must be standing on holy ground!**

Look, all around, the light of God's love is in each person present.

**We must be standing on holy ground!**

Look, deep within, the light of God's creativity and compassion  
are part of our being.

**We must be standing on holy ground!**

God is calling for our curiosity and our attention. In this time of worship  
let us recognise the flame of God's presence everywhere.

**And let us celebrate that we are standing on Holy Ground!**

## Hymn 716: Come and find the quiet centre

Come and find the quiet centre  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the space where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace;  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain;  
let our lives and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for hearts to care;  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Lewis Folk Melody

### Opening Prayer

(words by \*Bishop Thomas Ken 1637-1711 and \*\*Seasons of the Spirit)

\*Oh God,  
make the door of our church wide enough to receive all who need human love and  
fellowship, and a heavenly Father's care  
and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children,  
nor to straying feet,  
but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power:  
make it a gateway to thine eternal kingdom.

\*\*God, you call us to be agents of intervention and change in a broken world.

**But who are we, that you should do such a thing?**

God, you ask us to speak up, to show up, and to lead.

**But who are we, that you should do such a thing?**

God, you nudge us forward into the arenas of participation rather than passivity.

**But who are we, that you should do such a thing?**

**We are your children, Loving God, yet we confess we are reluctant to hear your call. We confess, Holy Presence, that we turn away and resist your urging displays, even when the signs are all around us. We are fearful and would rather imagine ourselves to be powerless than enter frays of conflict and oppression that exist all around us.**

The Great "I AM" is calling, showing us that WE ARE as well.

**We do not know how TO BE all we are called TO BE.  
Forgive us and show the way, we pray.**

The great "I AM" is always with us, and makes all things possible through God's grace.

People of God, let us not fear the signs of God's glistening presence. But rather, let us be affirmed and drawn in, ready to step forward and allow God to work through us. God is always with us. In this, let us be assured. Amen.

**Show and Tell:** based on Exodus 3:1-15

Seasons of the Spirit



Image of burning bush created by Marie Austin

The craft activity for 'show and tell' can be found at the end of the Order of Service

**Old Testament Reading: Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSV)**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had

turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

### **Hymn 755: Be still and know that I am God**

Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.  
I am the Lord who saves and heals.  
I am the Lord who saves and heals.

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.  
In you, Lord God, I put my trust.  
In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

Author and composer unknown  
Based on Psalm 46:10

### **Reflection**

#### **Anthem**

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.

Words: Book of Hours 1514  
Music: Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Seasons of the Spirit (adapted)

Holy Word, you have caught our attention today.

We have noticed your flickering presence in our midst, and we recognise that we abide on Holy Ground (*silence*)

We bring our compassionate curiosity to you, Loving Parent. We bring our often reluctant, but honestly caring hearts and ask, "Who are we that you should call us?" (*silence*)

Open our eyes to the ways life is being consumed and requires protection.  
Encourage us in the promise of new life beyond the pain (*silence*)

We lift our hearts to all who suffer under the oppression of social systems of discrimination (*silence*)

We lift our prayers for all who grieve or struggle in physical pain and anguish (*silence*)

We lift our voice in solidarity with all who are imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit (*silence*)

And we strive to lift our beings in willingness to say "yes" to your invitation to help (*silence*)

May the Holy Ground on which we stand today empower our steps towards the journey of healing in which we have been placed as your people.

May the energy of your Earth reach into our beings and give us the strength to say "yes" again and again.

May the burning bushes all around us continue to call out for attention and transformation, until the new life they reflect is fulfilled.

Bless us for the journey, we pray. Help us always to embrace the curiosity strengthened by the prayer that Jesus taught saying together:

**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**

## **Blessing and Sending**

People of God,  
may every step you take into this week and into this world  
be a step toward new life and renewal.  
Be still and know.  
Be still, within yourself, and go in curiosity and peace.

And may God, who is the very ground of our being,  
God, who calls us beyond where we thought we could go  
and God who companions us so that every step is walked on holy ground,  
bless you this day and every day. Amen.

## **Sung Blessing** The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

Minister: Rosie Magee

Leaders: David and Marie Austin

Reader: Ruth Sheard

Prayers of Intercession: Mary Godden

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Vocal ensemble: Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew Crichton, Andrew Carvel

Piano accompaniment: Eleanor Wilson

Communications: Alison Bruce and Susan McLarty

Service produced by Andrew Carvel

Cover photo: Frances Cooper (text added)

\*The Pocket Oxford Book of Prayer 2000 (adapted)

Seasons of the Spirit items: *from* SeasonsFusion by Wood Lake Publishing

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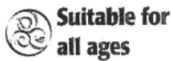
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## Craft Activity: Instructions for creating your own burning bush image (*from Seasons of the Spirit*)

### Burning bush

**Materials** paper plates, brown and green paint, paint brushes, small cups filled with water; red, orange, yellow, and similar coloured tissue paper; scissors, glue, newsprint or recycled newspaper, a copy of the [directions](#) displayed where all can see



### The practice of creativity

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#### Directions

1. Cut a paper plate into the shape of a bush (keeping a round top and then a trunk at the bottom). Paint the paper plate to look like a bush using green for the leaves and brown for the trunk. While the paint dries, cut pieces of tissue paper into approximately 8 cm/3 in squares.
2. Crumple the tissue paper to make flames and glue them to the bush.
3. Think about what it must have been like to see a burning bush that did not disintegrate or catch other bushes on fire. How do you think you would have reacted if you were Moses? If the setting allows, talk about this question with the other people at this station.



**Younger children** Help younger children create a burning bush. Wonder together about the warmth and crackle of the fire. Imagine they are standing by this warm, crackling bush and hearing God call their names.

4. Display your "burning bush" somewhere special at home as a reminder that God is trying to get our attention. God has something to say.