

## St Andrew's and St George's West

October 4, 2020

Last Sunday of Creation Time and  
Feast of St Francis

### Tending the Vineyard



#### Welcome

#### Call to Worship

#### Seasons of the Spirit

The sun rises without fail  
bringing a new day to Earth  
and we rise to embrace this time of worship.  
Flowers, trees, grasses and plants  
Flourish, and give praise with unfolding leaves,  
waving blades, and fragrant offerings.  
May we join them and praise the Creator with our being.

#### Hymn 189 Be still for the presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;  
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear:  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace:  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Words and Music: David J Evans (b.1957)

### Opening Prayer

adapted from Spill the Beans

Loving God, we thank you for the wonderful Earth,  
For mountains and plains, rivers and oceans,  
For the atmosphere and the intricate web of life.

We are tenants of your vineyard,  
guests at your table,  
children in your household.  
Transform our pride with your prophetic presence,  
subvert our expectations with your abiding grace,  
so that we might work for your purposes  
and live for your kingdom.  
Take all that we have and all that we are  
and align them with your good intentions.  
In your name, we pray.  
Amen.

### Prayer of Confession

Dr Pat Bennett, Eco-Congregation Scotland

O God, you intended the world to be a place of provision and plenty for all.  
We confess that sometimes in our attitudes or actions we have taken more than we  
need at the expense of others.

**Forgive us, and by your Spirit help us as we try to live differently in the week  
ahead.**

Silence

O God, you intended the world to be a place of fairness and flourishing for all.  
We confess that sometimes in our attitudes and actions we have lived as though  
we alone mattered.

**Forgive us, and by your Spirit help us as we try to live differently in the week  
ahead.**

Silence

O God, you intended the world to be a place in which all play their part in the health  
and wholeness of creation.

We confess that sometimes in our attitudes and actions we have avoided our  
responsibilities, or prevented others from fulfilling theirs.

**Forgive us, and by your Spirit help us as we try to live differently in the week  
ahead.**

Silence

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

God, the life and words of your Son -  
his compassion and care for others even as he himself was dying -  
assure us of the generous depths of your forgiveness and of its restorative power.  
Help us now through the energy of your Spirit to love and live differently,  
that we, and our world, might become all that you intended.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.**

### **St Francis: his life, and his Canticle of the Sun**



Church of San Damiano, Assisi

### **New Testament Reading Matthew 21:33-46**

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of

the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**Hymn 200** Christ is made the sure foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever,  
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O Lord of Hosts, today:  
with your constant loving-kindness  
hear your servants as they pray;  
and your fullest benediction  
shed within its walls away.

Here bestow on all your servants  
what they ask of you to gain,  
what they gain from you forever  
with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,  
praise and honour to the Son,  
praise and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory,  
while unending ages run.

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century

Translated John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

## Reflection

### Prayer of Commitment

From *Spill the Beans*

**God you call us to tend your land, to till your garden and to feed your people. But often we confuse dominion with domination, service with subjugation. In our bewilderment we substitute your loving intent with our selfish will, your persistent presence with our power. May the example of your self-emptying Son awaken us to the great reversal of grace that sets us all free to tend your land and love all your people. Amen.**

### Hymn 528 Make me a channel of your peace

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt true faith in you.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
in giving to all men that we receive;  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)  
from the *Prayer of St Francis*

### Prayers of the People

Loving God, you have made us tenants of your vineyard. Help us to tend it well and use its resources wisely. Let us follow the inspiration of St Francis, showing reverence for the whole of your creation, treating with care the land, the waters and the air, respecting the plant and animal species with whom we share this planet. Guide us towards a fairer sharing of the Earth's produce and a compassion for the poor and disadvantaged. We pray for refugees and for the victims of natural and

man-made disasters throughout the world. We pray for the homeless and the hungry, and for those struggling to get by.

We pray for all who are impacted by Coronavirus:

For those who are infected, and their families...  
For the bereaved...  
For the anxious and the lonely...  
For those who are facing loss of livelihoods and income...  
For health and care workers...  
For scientists developing vaccines and treatments...  
For students and school pupils...  
For governments and all who must make difficult decisions...  
For our own church communities and our families...

Following the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in the past two days, we pray for all who seek to shape the course of the church through these challenging times.

We pray for all in need of your care, and especially those we name silently before you now...

We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen

### **Franciscan Benediction**

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And the Blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems and Sanctifies, be upon you and all you love and pray for this day, and forever more. 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: Michael and Jocelyn Cunliffe  
Reader and Opening Prayer: Helen Cox  
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris  
Vocal ensemble: Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew  
Crichton, Tim Cooper, Andrew Carvel  
Piano Accompaniment: Jamie Lang  
Accordion: Alison Campbell  
Communications: Alison Bruce and Susan McLarty  
Service produced by Andrew Carvel

Sources:

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