

St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 30 May 2021

Trinity Sunday

Holy Encounters



Music **Fil-Flawwa ta' Mejju** (*In the Sweetness of May*)

Maltese hymn

Preparing for Worship

How do you describe something that you cannot describe?

How do you tell people about angels?

How do you talk about God?

Welcome

Call to Worship

God the Father calls, we answer, 'yes Lord!'
God the Son calls, and we follow as his disciples.
God the Holy Spirit gives us her breath of life.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we worship you today,
tomorrow, and forever.

Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God ever living through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

O God,
You are holy,
and deep within ourselves
where our being meets your being,
we are on holy ground.
Your holiness surrounds us
and calls our name.

You wait to meet us in holy encounters;
to make us holy with your holiness,
to make us loving with your love,
to make us hopeful with your hope.

In your presence we bow our heads
in shame where we have failed others,
failed ourselves and failed you.
Like Isaiah, purify our lips and our lives.

(silence)

Touch us with the live fuel of your Spirit and the
tenderness of your forgiveness.

In your presence we breathe new life
when we dare to be still, to be centred,

to be whole, to be holy.

Set us free to be a place
where sacredness is found
through peace with justice for ourselves and others.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught.

**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.**

Scripture Reading Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Reflection Holy Encounters

Introduction to Hymn

Hymn 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.

Prayer of Commitment

Using words from the speech given by the outgoing Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, at the Opening of the General Assembly 2021.

And so we pray...

Until the last food bank in Scotland is closed - because there is no longer any need, we say:

there is work for us to do.

For as long as there are children growing up in Scotland whose life chances are at best 'compromised' and at worse 'ruined' because of their postcode, we say:

there is work for us to do.

For as long as there is planning for the retention of - even the increase in numbers of - nuclear warheads on OUR shores, we say:

there is work for us to do.

For as long as there are despairing people, struggling with poor mental health, having to wait months and years for suitable treatment, we say:

there is work for us to do.

And for as long as we continue to pollute our rivers, poison our air and fill holes in the ground with our waste, we say:

there is work for us to do.

Until every person in Scotland - and in all those places where the Church of Scotland is present - is treated according to who they are and not by the colour of their skin and not by the place where they worship and not by the language they speak, we say:

there is work for us to do.

For as long as people - predominately young women - are trafficked into Scotland to work as sex slaves and in the off-the-books economy, we say:

there is work for us to do.

For as long as there are lost souls sleeping rough in shop doorways or families in damp, substandard bed & breakfast style accommodation, we say:

there is work for us to do.

And yes, though it be far-off and 'over there,' for as long as the skies over the Holy Lands are ripped open by another barrage of rockets and mortars and the overwhelming superiority of attacks from the air - in some small way, we say:

there is work for us to do.

God, help us to give ourselves to the ways of the Kingdom as set out by Jesus in his 'here's why I'm here' manifesto.

Amen.

Hymn I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (verses 2 & 3)

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them.
Whom shall I send ?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord ?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send ?

Sending and Blessing

It is us, Lord, here we are, Lord,
We have heard you calling in the day
We will go Lord,
if you lead us,
We will hold your people in our hearts.

May the love of the Father enfold us,
the wisdom of the Son enlighten us,
the fire of the Spirit inflame us;
and may the blessing of the triune God rest on us,
and abide with us, in holy encounters
now and evermore. Amen.

Organ Music Concerto in G BWV 592.1

J.S. Bach

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, David Dow

Scripture Reader: Donald Ferguson

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

Soloist: Selda Dow with David Dow

Vocal ensemble: Adrienne Burgess, Philippa Burgess, Eleanor Cozens, Drew Crichton,
Andrew Carvel, George Burgess

Flutes: Laura Cioffi, Clara Galea

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Philippa Burgess, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

Photo: Copy of Rublev's icon, 'The Trinity'. Photo by Rosie Magee

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Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version

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