

**St. Andrew's and St. George's West
Order of Service 12 September 2021
17th Sunday of Pentecost**



Organ music

J.S. Bach: Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist, BWV 631

Johannes Gijsbertus Bastiaans: Andante op eene nieuwe Koraalmelodie

Welcome

Introit Hymn 465 Be Thou My Vision

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.

Call to worship

Psalm 19 – Read Responsively

East The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

West *Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.*

East There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

West *yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,*

East which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

West *Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.*

East The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

West *the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;*

East the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

West *More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.*

East Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

West *But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.*

East Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

West *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Loving God, Creator, and Ruler of all,
Our rock and our Redeemer
we come this day to worship You
and to ask Your guidance upon our lives.

We come to be still,
we come to listen,
we come to be noisy,
and we come to offer ourselves to You.

Prepare our hearts to receive Your word
and up lift our spirits as we spend time together worshipping You,
so that when we leave this place of worship
we may feel renewed and refreshed.

Amen

Forgiving God,
You have asked us to bear fruit in our lives
and to share our faith with others.

Yet so many times we have failed You in doing this.

We have let You down and let ourselves down.

Our thoughts and words have failed You;

we have missed opportunities to speak up for our belief in You,
choosing to remain silent instead of witnessing for You.

Our discipleship has been weak and often non-existent.

We are ashamed of our weaknesses, faults, greed, selfishness, envy, and pride.

Our faith has been shallow, and we have failed You in so many ways.

In Your forgiving mercy and grace
cleanse our hearts and minds that we may better serve You
and so that we can feel strengthened
to follow You more faithfully each day.

Amen

And now we say together the family prayer.....

**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.**

Hymn 600 Spirit of God Unseen as the wind

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written Word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.
Spirit of God ...

Without Your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live His way;
we need Your power, we need Your strength,
following Christ each day.
Spirit of God ...

New Testament Readings : James 3:1-12 and St. Mark 9:14-29

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member,

yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

St. Mark 9:14-29

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

Hymn 596 Breathe on me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
direct my heart's desire,
till every earthly part of me
glows with your holy fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

Reflection "I believe, help my unbelief"

Organ music J.S. Bach: Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein, BWV 641

Prayers of the People

*Response : Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer***

Ever loving God, as we do, You must look on this world with sadness.
As nations struggle with nations, as rulers oppress their people.
As international aid is given but is diverted by those whose motive is greed.
As those who give up all to free from oppression are greeted with cynicism.
As your name is used in vain to justify evil acts of inhumanity.
We pray that your Word may be heard and obeyed in the spirit of love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Yet you look on this world with hope
Hope that those who go to the aid of others in Your name will succeed in bringing
love to places where it is desperately needed both at home and abroad.
Hope that the groups of faithful people in many lands will be effective in spreading
Your gospel of reconciliation and forgiveness through the sacrifice Your Son made.
Hope that the innate goodness of the majority of people in every land including our
own will show that actions are stronger than words and example is infectious.
Hope that the skills you have given each of us will be used positively where we live
and work and that communities will bind together to even defeat a pandemic.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

And you look on this world with joy
Joy that in every land there are those who revere your name and spread your love.
Joy that in every community there are those who work selflessly to ensure the safety
of their fellow citizens by making just laws, administering justice with scrupulous

fairness and by using their talents in scientific research, in furthering medical knowledge and in enhancing society by their skills in the arts.

Joy that there are selfless individuals who will take the risks of policing, of fighting fire, of tending to the sick, of comforting the dying and of caring for those who are oppressed, hungry or toiling under mental burdens.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

So Lord we are bold to ask you to bless each of us as we try to follow You. Bless us as a congregation and those who minister here. Strengthen our community and City that all may remember that except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that do so. Bless all of different denominations and faiths who worship you and try to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with You.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Amen

Hymn 237 Look Forward In Faith

Look forward in faith,
all time is in God's hand.
Walk humbly with him
and trust his future plan.
God has wisely led
his people by his power.
Look forward in hope,
he gives us each new hour.

Look forward in faith,
the world is in God's care.
His purpose of love
he calls on us to share.
In our neighbour's need
the Lord is present still.
He blesses the meek!
The earth will know God's will.

Look forward in faith,
God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ,
his Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live
within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever in him,
He rules o'er earth and space!

Blessing

The God who called us here
is now sending us out into the world
to put the words we have heard into action.

As we have worshipped together
now let us leave here renewed and refreshed
to share the good news with those we meet.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you
all and those whom you love wherever they may be - now and evermore. **Amen.**

Organ music Dietrich Buxtehude: Nun lob, mein Seel', den Herren, BuxWV 214

Worship Leader: Professor Herbert A. Kerrigan QC

Scripture readers: George Russell and Margaret McGregor

Prayers of the People: Pam Russell

Organist: Alasdair Grant

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

Sources:

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Scripture readings taken from the New Revised Standard Version

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition

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