

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 6 March, 2022**

This Land is your Land



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

The world belongs to God.
The earth and the people are his.
How good and how lovely it is
to live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.
If the Lord's disciples keep silent,
these stones would shout aloud.
Lord, open our lips
and our mouths
shall proclaim your praise.

On the first Sunday in Lent we gather.
We come to remember the good news of Jesus
who came to reveal God's love,
and who invites us to walk in his way.

We come as we are,
beloved children,
to worship God.
Let us come close to God,
as God comes close to us.

Hymn O God, you are my God alone (Psalm 63)

O God, you are my God alone,
whom eagerly I seek,
though longing fills my soul with thirst
and leaves my body weak.
Just as a dry and barren land
awaits a freshening shower,
I long within your house to see
your glory and your power.

Your faithful love surpasses life,
evoking all my praise.
Through every day, to bless your name,
my hands in joy I'll raise.
My deepest needs you satisfy
as with a sumptuous feast.
So, on my lips and in my heart,
your praise has never ceased.

Throughout the night I lie in bed
and call you, Lord, to mind ;
in darkest hours I meditate
how God, my strength, is kind.
Beneath the shadow of your wing,
I live and feel secure ;
and daily as I follow close,
your right hand keeps me sure.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Lord God, you have made yourself known to us
as creator and sustainer of all life.
As we embrace this season of Lent,
Help us to find ways to be more transformed
into the likeness of the One we follow.
Give us the faith and courage to follow Jesus
in ways of active engagement with the pain in the world
and an equal sharing of all that brings fullness of life to each human being.

The scriptures speak directly to the scenes being shown on the nightly news –
exiles, displaced men women and children, forced to leave the land they love. Sadly, Lord,
human beings keep repeating the same vicious cycle.

You call us to help break the cycle.
By supporting people enduring persecution, poverty and oppression.
By welcoming people who come to this land to escape violence and war.

We seek to do so knowing that *all* land is God's land. We did not create it, and we
do not own it. We are to be agents of sharing the gifts of your creation.

We confess now where we have hoarded rather than helped. Whether through
holding on to hurts or failing to reach out a welcoming hand.

(silence)

Help us forgive others as we have been forgiven.

We ask this in the name of Jesus who fled persecution at his birth
and at his last triumphed over death,
in whose name we pray the prayer he taught his disciples:

**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.**

One name among many: Giorgio

Close to home: In Edinburgh today

Hymn God on earth (vv1-3)

When God Almighty came to earth
he took the pain of Jesus' birth,
he took the flight of refugee,
and whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty went to work,
carpenter's sweat he didn't shirk,
profit and loss he didn't flee,
and whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty walked the street,
the critic's curse he had to meet,
the cynic's smile he had to see,
and whispered, "Humbly follow me."

Dedication of offerings

**We bring our offerings to you, O God - our gifts of money, time and talents - and
with them we offer our service that it may be used to serve others, and give you
glory. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

Hymn

God on earth (vv4-6)

When God Almighty met his folk,
of peace and truth he boldly spoke
to set the slave and tyrant free,
and whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty took his place
to save the sometimes human race,
he took it boldly on a tree,
and whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty comes again,
he'll meet us incognito as then;
and though no words may voice his plea,
he'll whisper, "Are you following me?"

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.'

You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Scripture Reading Romans 10: 8b-13

But what does it say in the covenant the Lord commanded Moses to make

'The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Reflection

Hymn Pray for a World

Pray for a world where every child
finds welcome in a sheltered place,
where love is tender, undefiled,
and firmness intertwines with grace.

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.

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.

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.

Our Prayers

Almighty and most merciful God, just as in days gone by your people brought you first fruits from the land you gave them as an inheritance, so we bring before you the concerns of the world we have inherited.

All land is your land.

Almighty God, we pray for all those driven from their homes by war, persecution, disease and natural disaster. May they find a warm welcome and sanctuary in strange lands. In particular we pray today for the millions fleeing across and out of ravaged Ukraine. We give thanks for the eager readiness of the Reformed Church in Ukraine to open church doors in support of those moving from east to west. And for the many aid agencies who have launched emergency appeals.

PAUSE

All land is your land.

Almighty God, we pray for the equitable sharing of our land and its natural resources. As we mark International Women's Day this coming Tuesday, let us remember especially those women and girls who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation and response in order to build a more sustainable future for all.

PAUSE

All people are your people.

Almighty God, we ask that decision makers hear your voice at this time of great uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Parents protecting their families, deciding whether to stay put or to be on the move. Church leaders as they support and comfort people. Global leaders who have the power not only to start wars but to stop them too.

PAUSE

All people are your people.

Almighty God, we pray for all those who face discrimination, prejudice and persecution on account of their race, colour or creed. May they be filled with hope for a more just future, healing from wounds inflicted, courage to advocate for change, and the grace to respond to hatred with love.

PAUSE

All people are your people.

Almighty God, we pray for anyone who is sick in body, mind or spirit. May they experience the embrace of your loving, healing arms. In particular we pray for those members of our church family known to us from Pause for Prayer, together with those known to us in the silence of our hearts.

PAUSE

All souls are your souls.

Almighty God, we pray for the souls of those recently departed this life for a place in your eternal kingdom. And your blessing on those who mourn.

Amen

Hymn Bright the cloud and bright the glory

Bright the cloud and bright the glory,
brighter far than mere sun's rays,
opening up a glimpse of heaven
to disciples' awestruck gaze :
power past their comprehension,
splendour too profound for praise.
All was changed, all was changed ;
they would never be the same.

Bright the cloud but dark the glory
wrought by human enterprise,
opening wide with awful terror
stark new worlds before our eyes :
power grasped but far from mastered,
knowledge keen but not yet wise.
All has changed, all has changed ;
we shall never be the same.

From the cloud and from the glory
human need brought Jesus down :
down to death, then from death rising
to receive a victor's crown.
Lead us, Christ, to prize compassion
more than riches or renown.
Help us change, help us change,
may we never be the same.

Sending and blessing

Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices
of those who have nothing to lose.

Let us walk His way with humility.

Jesus points us to a way of self-giving,
where power and status are overturned.

Let us walk His way with humility.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Let us walk His way with humility and hope.

And may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
journey with you now and always.

Sung Response Threefold Amen

Sending music

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, Crispin Longden with Dorothy Tarrant

Scripture Reader: Alastair Marcham

Organist: George Barrett

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott, Phillipa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Ruth Forrester

Sources:

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Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version

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