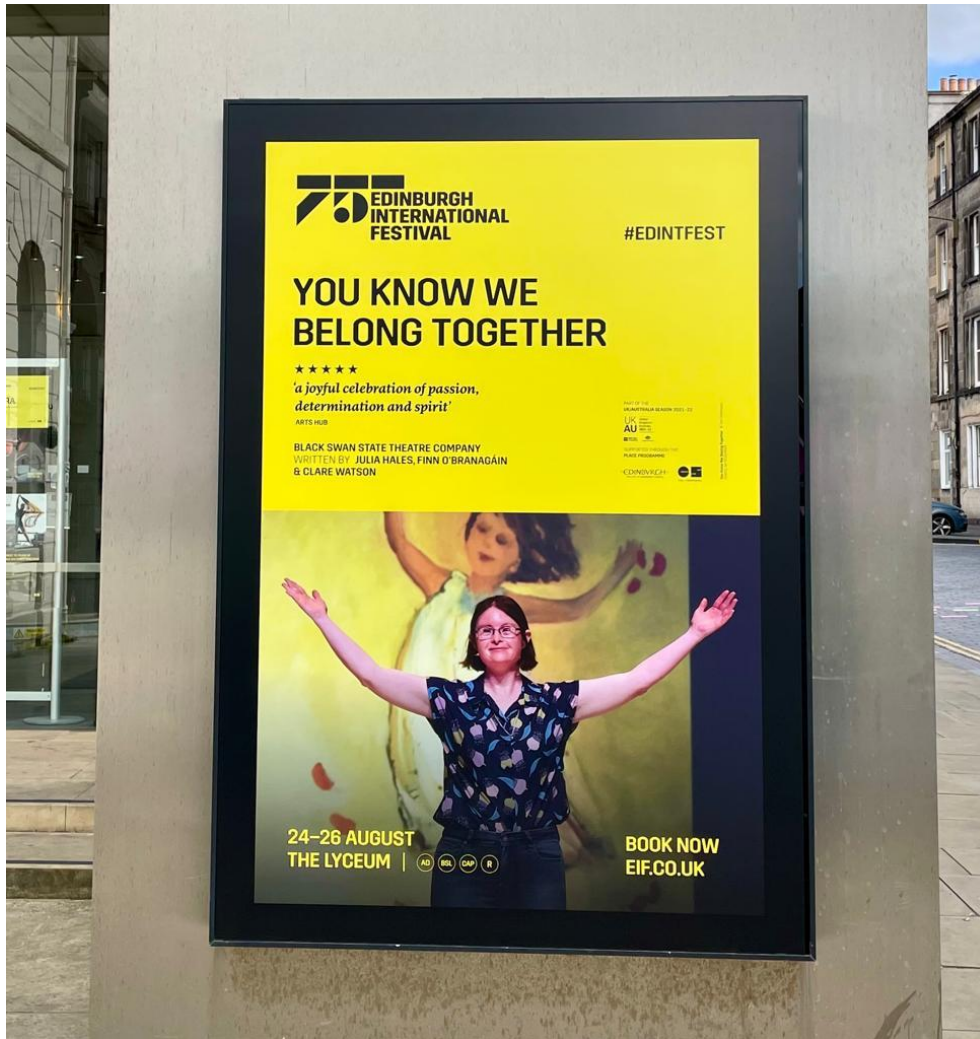


**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 28 August 2022**

A place at the table



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Come into this place, come tall and come small,
Come join us, whoever, God calls one and all.
We sit where we're able; we serve one and all.
Let us worship together and remember God's call
To love one another; to serve one and all.

Hymn 680 You are called to tell the story

- 1 You are called to tell the story,
passing words of life along,
then to blend your voice with others,
as you sing the sacred song.
Christ be known in all our singing,
filling all with songs of love.
- 2 You are called to teach the rhythm
of the dance that never ends,
then to move within the circle,
hand in hand with strangers, friends.
Christ be known in all our dancing,
touching all with hands of love.
- 3 You are called to set the table,
blessing bread as Jesus blessed,
then to come with thirst and hunger,
needing care like all the rest,
Christ be known in all our sharing,
feeding all with signs of love.
- 4 May the One whose love is broader
than the measure of all space
give us words to sing the story,
move among us in this place.
Christ be known in all our living,
filling all with gifts of love.

Opening prayer

Generous God, you touch our lives with mystery and hope.
We rejoice to be part of the divine world
Which you love and sustain.

Hospitable God, you invite us to a banquet
where the last may be first,
and the humble and the mighty trade places.

Yet, this is not what we see in the world around us
where some are always feasting at the top table while others eat crumbs.

Be with those who have never known a table
blessed by laughter and welcome,
who have seldom heard affirmations of their gifts
Remind us, that we are to set many tables.

Send your Spirit now
so that all may find a place at your table.
You invite us to be your guests.
You invite us to share in the abundance of your kingdom.
May we accept your invitation.

God of promise,
you call us to reflect your grace and generosity,
yet we know we often fail to live up to our call as disciples.

Help us recognise that you bless each person with distinctive skills, talents, and abilities.

Help us see with fresh eyes your image in each one we meet.

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us for thinking of ourselves
far higher than we should!
Forgive us for thinking of ourselves
far lower than we ought!
Lord, forgive us both ways!

Let us be glad simply to be at the banquet:
gathered by you in grace,
ready to be put in our place,
not for our merit but despite our demerit,
not for our status but despite our sin.

Forgive us both ways!
Put us in our place!
Only then can we face
our worldly posture
with heavenly poise.

Words of Assurance

We are assured that there is nothing and no-one beyond God's redeeming love.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

The Lord's Prayer

In the name of Jesus, a guest at all our tables, we pray the words that he taught saying:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and 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.**

The sharing of Christ's peace

God makes peace within us.

Let's claim it.

God makes peace between us.

Let's share it.

Let us offer each a sign of Christ's peace.

Scripture Reading Luke 14:1,7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

'You know we belong together'

Hymn Within the circle of your friends

Tune: Repton

1. Within the circle of your friends,
 you found a place for me.
 beside those whom I often meet,
 near people whom I've yet to greet
 I'm privileged to be,
 I'm privileged to be.
2. Within your commonwealth of love,
 you found a place for me
 to listen, heal, disturb or care,
 seek words to sing, find truth to share
 let life be full and free,
 let life be full and free.
3. Around the table you prepare,
 you found a place for me
 where, breaking bread and pouring wine,

you tell us all, "This means you're mine.
and mine you'll always be,
and mine you'll always be".

4. Now brother, servant, saviour, Lord,
I make a place for you.
Called to your feast, among your friends
and keen to live as God intends,
I come to be made new,
I come to be made new.

Dedication of Offerings

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
we pray for a world
where too often the loudest people
presume to be heard:
where money and power
turns up the volume,
and gentle wisdom is drowned out;
where greed is too often the creed,
and noise masks folly.

Loving God,
we pray for a world
where small voices remain unheard:
where poverty and powerlessness
mutes their sound,
and harsh folly prevails;
where need is a mantra-like refrain,
and compassion a compromised chorus.

Loving God,
bless them all:
the loud and the silent,
the powerful and the powerless,
but bless them differently!

Bless the loud and proud with humility;
bless the quiet and crushed with esteem;
bless the powerful with silence;
bless the powerless with sound.
Amen.

Video 'I'm part of something bigger than myself'

Hymn 694 Brother, sister, let me serve you (verses 1,2,4,5,6)

- 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Sending

May we go from here
to be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Christ.
May we offer our time and treasure to those who need it
without stopping to count the cost.
May we ceaselessly seek justice and pursue it.

Blessing

May you find the blessing of the lowest place
where life is about what is given and not received.

May you find the blessing of the lowest place
where God is hungry and bread is broken.

May you find the blessing of the lowest place
where love is broken open and new life created.

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be with us all,
this day and always.
Amen

Sending music

Worship Leaders: Jane Brown, Rev Rosie Magee
Musician: Jamie Turnbull
Scripture reader: Danni Smith
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Philippa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Susan McLarty,
Mary Margaret Scott

Image: Jane Brown
Scripture Reading from the New Revised Standard Version
Prayers of Confession and Intercession: adapted from Spill the Beans issue 9, Spill
the Beans Resource Team.

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