

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 4 September 2022**

**Loving God more**



**Gathering music**

**Welcome**

**Call to worship**

**Come, now is the time to worship.**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship.**

**Come, just as you are before your God, come.**

**Hymn 97** O God, you search me and you know me

Psalm 139

- 1 O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me :  
ever the maker and keeper of my days.
- 2 You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting you besiege me :  
in every moment of life or death, you are.
- 3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding :  
God of my present, my past and future, too.
- 4 Although your Spirit is upon me,  
still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you :  
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.
- 5 For you created me and shaped me,  
gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you :  
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

**Prayer of adoration and confession**

Creative parent,  
you designed the universe  
and poured out  
your unconditional love  
to make it.

Jesus Christ,  
you gave yourself freely to the world,  
taking on human form,  
offering us love and inviting us  
to build your kingdom with you.

Loving Spirit,  
you are within us and all around us,  
nudging and guiding us along,  
when we allow you in.

Three-in-One God, you have freely given us  
life and love.  
You continue to love us and call us to you.  
What every else tempts us and distracts us, may we love you more.

We stand in awe of people who show generosity  
in the midst of sacrifice.  
Take us deep into the heart of hospitality.  
Help us to understand that the generosity and care the earth its peoples' need  
demands sacrifices on our part.

Forgive us, loving God,  
 for those times when we choose to turn away,  
 for those times when the cost  
 seems too great for us to bear  
 and instead, we choose our own desires over you.

We turn to you now in the silence of our hearts.

### **Assurance of pardon**

Lord, you assure us that you long to forgive us,  
 that your love for us is eternal  
 and that no matter how often  
 we fail you or turn away,  
 you are always there for us,  
 waiting to welcome us home. Amen.

### **Our response to Christ in dedication**

CH4 496

**Humbly in your sight we come together, Lord ;  
 grant us now the blessing of your presence here.**

**These, our hearts, are yours, we give them to you, Lord ;  
 purify our love to make it like your own.**

**These, our eyes, are yours, we give them to you, Lord ;  
 may we always see your world as with your sight.**

**These, our hands, are yours, we give them to you, Lord ;  
 give them strength and skill to do all work for you.**

**These, our feet, are yours, we give them to you, Lord ;  
 may we always walk the path of life with you.**

**These, our tongues, are yours, we give them to you, Lord ;  
 may we speak your healing words of life and truth.**

**These, our ears, are yours, we give them to you, Lord ;  
 open them to hear the Gospel as from you.**

**Our whole selves are yours, we give them to you, Lord ;  
 take us now and keep us yours for evermore.**

### **Prayer Of Dedication**

Gift giver,  
 we offer our money  
 as symbols of the offering  
 of our whole selves.  
 Take what we offer  
 for the building of your kingdom.  
 Take the offering of ourselves  
 and guide us how best  
 we can use our gifts each day,  
 to help build your kingdom on earth.  
 Amen

## The sharing of Christ's Peace

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

**Hymn 502**          Take my life, Lord, let it be

- 1 Take my life, Lord, let it be  
consecrated, glad, and free ;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of your love ;  
take my feet, that I may run  
bearing news of Christ your Son.
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King ;  
take my intellect and use  
every power as you shall choose.
- 4 Take my will — your will be done,  
may my will and yours be one ;  
take my heart — it is your own,  
it shall be your royal throne.
- 5 Take my love — my Lord, I pour  
at your feet its treasure-store ;  
take myself, and I will be  
all for you, eternally.

## Scripture Readings

Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
  - <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
  - <sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
  - <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.

<sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.

### **Introduction to Video reading of Luke 14:25-33**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

**Loving God more...**

## The Lord's 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 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.**

## Hymn 259 Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair (verses 1,2,5)

- 1 Beauty for brokenness,  
 hope for despair,  
 Lord, in the suffering  
 this is our prayer.  
 Bread for the children,  
 justice, joy, peace,  
 sunrise to sunset  
 your kingdom increase.
- 2 Shelter for fragile lives,  
 cures for their ills,  
 work for the craftsmen,  
 trade for their skills.  
 Land for the dispossessed,  
 rights for the weak,  
 voices to plead the cause  
 of those who can't speak.  
*God of the poor,  
 friend of the weak,  
 give us compassion, we pray,  
 melt our cold hearts,  
 let tears fall like rain.  
 Come, change our love  
 from a spark to a flame.*
- 5 Lighten our darkness,  
 breathe on this flame,  
 until your justice  
 burns brightly again ;  
 until the nations  
 learn of your ways,  
 seek your salvation  
 and bring you their praise.  
*God of the poor,  
 friend of the weak,  
 give us compassion, we pray,  
 melt our cold hearts,  
 let tears fall like rain.  
 Come, change our love  
 from a spark to a flame.*

## Prayers of the People

Wise, all loving, generous, and all-seeing God, we your children come to you with thankful hearts for your love which never fails us, and hope, which sustains and encourages us.

Lord, help us to see your world  
**with eyes wide open.**

We see the wonder of your creation and ask forgiveness for the harm we have done to it. Please guide us and help us look after your world.

We remember those countries living in turmoil, famine, and natural disasters, that those in power will make good decisions to help them. We hold before you those affected by the drought in East Africa and the flooding in Pakistan.

Lord, help us to see your world  
**with eyes wide open.**

We pray that we may see ways to bring an end to corruption and violence and war across the world, that all peoples might come together and live in peace.

We pray for peaceful resolution and a just distribution of wealth, which meets basic needs of people for food, shelter and health care. We bring before you the rising cost of living, in our own country at this time and the desperation and anxiety it is causing.

Lord, help us to see your world  
**with eyes wide open.**

Help us, ourselves and as a nation to search our hearts to be generous and compassionate to those who are struggling and welcome refugees in need of care at this time, particularly praying for our Ukrainian friends.

We pray for victims of violence in our country, especially remembering the family of nine-year-old Olivia who was so tragically killed in Liverpool.

Lord, help us to see your world  
**with eyes wide open.**

We offer ourselves to you Lord and give thanks for all your gifts. Help us to follow your light and guidance and loving care through all that is happening.

Lord, help us to see your world  
**with eyes wide open.**

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Hymn 644** O Jesus, I have promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;

be now and always near me,  
 my master and my friend:  
 I shall not fear the battle  
 if you are by my side,  
 nor wander from the pathway  
 if you will be my guide.

2. Oh, let me feel you near me;  
 the world is ever near;  
 I see the sights that dazzle,  
 the tempting sounds I hear;  
 my foes are ever near me,  
 around me, and within:  
 but, Jesus, draw still nearer,  
 and shield my soul from sin.
3. Oh, let me hear you speaking,  
 in accents clear and still,  
 above the storms of passion,  
 the murmurs of self-will;  
 Oh, speak to reassure me,  
 to hasten, or control;  
 O, speak, and make me listen,  
 true guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, you have promised  
 to all who follow you,  
 that where you are in glory  
 your servant shall be too;  
 and Jesus, I have promised  
 to serve you to the end:  
 now give me grace to follow,  
 my master and my friend.

### Closing responses

This is the day that God has made  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it**  
 We will not offer to God;  
**Offerings that cost us nothing.**  
 Go in peace to love and to serve;  
**We will seek peace and pursue it.**  
 In the name of the Trinity of Love:  
**God in community, Holy and One.**

### Blessing

### Sending music



Worship Leaders: Alison Hay, Rev Rosie Magee, Ruth Sheard  
Musician: George Barrett  
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Philippa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Susan McLarty,  
Mary Margaret Scott

### **Images**

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