

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 19th March 2023
'What's Your Story?'**



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
**who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;**

who keeps faith forever;
**who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

**¹The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

Praise the LORD!

From Psalm 146

Hymn

CH4 268 O God of Bethel! By whose hand

Opening Prayer and 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 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.**

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you
and also with you

Hymn

CH4 557 O Love that wilt not let me go

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

John 9: 1-23

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³ Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works

might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹ Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹ He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' ¹² They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰ His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

Anthem

John 9: 24-41

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' ²⁵ He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶ They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷ He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' ²⁸ Then they

reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.'²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'³⁰ The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.'³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'³⁴ They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'³⁶ He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.'³⁷ Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.'³⁸ He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.³⁹ Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.'⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?'⁴¹ Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

Hymn

CH4 555 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

Reflection

'What's your Story?'

Hymn

CH4 540 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Prayers of the People

Hymn

CH4 352 O for a thousand tongues, to sing

Sending and blessing

Sending music

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Assistant: Helen Hammond

Scripture Reader: Helen Cox

Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

Sources:

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition unless otherwise stated

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