

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 30th July 2023**

'Why Does God Allow Suffering?'



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Lift up your voice and call out to God.

We cry out, believing that God hears us.

Come together and wait for God.

We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.

Surely God's presence is here with us now.

We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.

Come, worship the Lord.

We hope in God, for with him is great power to redeem.

Based on Psalm 130

Hymn 157 Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom

Opening Prayer and 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 97 O God you search me and you know me

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

Job 19: 1-11; 21-27

Then Job answered:

² "How long will you torment me

and break me in pieces with words?

³ These ten times you have cast reproach upon me;

are you not ashamed to wrong me?

⁴ And even if it is true that I have erred,

my error remains with me.

⁵ If indeed you magnify yourselves against me

and make my humiliation an argument against me,

⁶ know then that God has put me in the wrong

and closed his net around me.

⁷ Even when I cry out, 'Violence!' I am not answered;

I call aloud, but there is no justice.

⁸ He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass,

and he has set darkness upon my paths.

⁹ He has stripped my glory from me

and taken the crown from my head.

¹⁰ He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone;

he has uprooted my hope like a tree.

¹¹ He has kindled his wrath against me

and counts me as his adversary.

²¹ Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!

²² Why do you, like God, pursue me,
never satisfied with my flesh?

²³ "O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead

they were engraved on a rock forever!
25 For I know that my Redeemer lives
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;
26 and after my skin has been destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
27 whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

Matthew 27: 38-46

38 Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" 44 The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46 And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Hymn 165 Praise to the Lord for the joys of the earth

Reflection *Why does God allow suffering?*

Hymn 540 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Prayers of the People

Hymn 166 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy i

Sending and blessing

Sending music

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Scripture Reader: Charles Bergius

Prayers of the people: Dorothy and Alastair Mackenzie

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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