

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 27th August 2023**

THEME

‘Stellar Words from Mars (Hill)’



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;

before the gods I sing your praise;

²I bow down towards your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.

- ³ **On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.**
- ⁴ **All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- ⁵ **They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.**
- ⁶ **For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**
- ⁸ **The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

Psalm 138: 1-6, 8

Hymn

CH4 63 All people that on earth do dwell

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

CH4 724 Christ's is the world in which we move

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

Acts 17: 16-21

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for [Silas and Timothy] in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babblers want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹ So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?' ²⁰ It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.' ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Anthem: Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes. **Music:** Thomas Atwood

Acts 17: 22-34

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human

hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God^[b] and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ ³³ At that point Paul left them. ³⁴ But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Hymn

CH4 595 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us

Reflection

Stellar Words from Mars (Hill)

Hymn

CH4 130 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

Prayers of the People

Hymn

CH4 419 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son

Sending and blessing

Sending music

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Worship Assistants: Arthur Chapman

Scripture Reader: Jimmy Campbell

Organist/pianist: James McNeil

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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