

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service
31st December 2023**

Call to Worship: **Psalm 148**

LEADER Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from heaven

RESPONSE **you that live in the heights above**

L Praise him, all his angels

R all his heavenly armies

L Praise him kings and all peoples

R princes and all other rulers

L young women and young men

R old people and children too

L Let them all praise the name of the LORD!

R His name is greater than all others

Hymn 320 Joy to the world the Lord is come

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you

and also with you

(Let us share peace with one another)

Prayer

Hymn 319 Of the Father's love begotten

Gospel Reading: Matthew chapter 28, verses 16-20

The Commissioning of the Disciples

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

New Testament Reading: Acts, chapter 1, verses 6-11

The Ascension of Jesus

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all

Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Hymn 326 As with gladness men of old

Sermon: Is there a substitute for love?

Hymn 333 Now Lord! According to Thy word

Prayers of the People

Hymn 237 Look forward in faith

Blessing

Worship leader: Rev Alistair Kiel

Organist: James McNeill

Reader: Marion Watson

Prayers of the people: Arthur Chapman

St Andrew's & St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh

Charity SC008990

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