

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service
17th December 2023
Advent 3 – The God who restores**



Welcome

Call to Worship: based on Isaiah 61

Let us worship the Lord!

We come to worship Christ

Who proclaims good news to the poor,
binds up the broken-hearted,
frees the prisoner
and comforts those who mourn.

We come to worship Christ

Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy Instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

We come to worship Christ

Who rebuilds ancient ruins
and restores broken places.

Let us worship him with joy!

Hymn: 281 People, look east, the time is near

Lighting of Advent Candle of Joy

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.

The Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you
and also with you
(Let us share peace with one another)

Offering Prayer

Hymn: 275 Come now, O Prince of Peace

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61 v 1-4, 8-11 (NRSVA)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Anthem: The angel Gabriel Basque carol *arranged* Malcolm Archer

Scripture Reading: John 1 v 6-8, 19-28

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' 21 And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 22 Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 23 He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord"',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' 26 John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

Hymn: 334 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry

Sermon: Bind up, repair, restore, make new...

Hymn: 710 'I have a dream, a man once said'

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 474 Hail to the Lord's anointed

Blessing

Worship leader: Mrs Fiona Devoy

Reader: Bill Mitchell

Prayers of the people: Selda Dow

Musician: David Stewart

Image: Hand_Pinted_Kintsugi_Pottery_Bowl.jpg by Ruthann Hurwitz, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

St Andrew's & St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh
Charity SC008990
www.stagw.org.uk