

**St Andrew's and St George's West**  
**Order of Service 30 October 2022**  
**A Consideration Before All Souls'**

**Gathering music**

**Welcome**

**Call to worship**

**All: Blessed are the days given to us.**

As we journey on, Christ holds hands with our hearts as we let go of a time-bound life and grasp eternity.

**All: Blessed are the days given to us.**

May the steps we take fall gently on the earth. May the words we say fall gently on the souls who hear them. May the lessons we learn and the ones we teach plant themselves firmly, take root deeply and bear fruit that gives life when ours is done.

**All: Blessed are the days given to us.**

In the fleeting moment of this Sabbath morning, let us turn to the God of eternity. Let us worship God.

**All: Blessed is this day given to us.**

**Hymn 501** Take this moment, sign and space

**Opening Prayer**

Yahweh, the great I AM, humanity has a question – asked over and over and over again ... What is this life?

Breathing in and out, heart pumping, atoms multiplying, synapses and neurons firing? ...

What is this life? Maybe it's time – seconds to minutes to hours to days – days to weeks, months, years? ...

What is this life? Accumulating insight, collecting toys? Doing good, doing no harm – what is this life?

We need to know, God, because the one we want to follow has told us that the best way to save our lives is to lose it – so we need to know exactly what's at stake here. What do we need to lose, and is it worth the trade-off?

Yahweh, the great I AM, humanity has a question – asked over and over again ... What is this life?

As we set out in search of answers, keep asking us the question. Stay with us in our searching.

When we sense something other than ourselves in all this, stir that sense into insight that moves us towards each other, for in loving each other, we may find answers that elude us.

Forgive us when we fail; lift us when we fall; turn us towards holy ground where we can take off our sandals, put down our burdens and feel the warmth of the sand; where we can feel the solid earth beneath our feet and the freedom of our spirit as it stretches towards yours.

The time for searching has begun, and the journey itself is holy ground.

### **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 this day 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.**

### **Short talk**

#### **The sharing of Christ's peace**

**Hymn 251** I, the Lord of sea and sky

**Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-17**

#### **Moses at the Burning Bush**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

#### **The Divine Name Revealed**

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I

say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I am has sent me to you.”’ God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The Lord,[the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”:

This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

Go and assemble the elders of Israel, and say to them, “The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying: I have given heed to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt. I declare that I will bring you up out of the misery of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

## **Anthem**

### **Scripture reading: John 6:37-38**

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

## **Reflection**

**Hymn 694** Brother, sister, let me serve you

### **Dedication of Offerings**

#### **Prayers of the People**

*with congregational response:*

Lord, as we bring our prayers before you  
**may we also play our part**

Each shining moment, every ordinary day, the years that stretch before us, seemingly endless but over in a flicker of time – gifts from you, God. Help us not to waste them. Open our hearts and our minds and our spirits ... in this shining moment, on every ordinary day, in the years that stretch before us, seemingly endless but over in a flicker of time give us a sense of our purpose and your pleasure.

God of us all, we cannot see eternity. Forgive us when we do not even try to imagine it. Forgive our fascination with things that will one day come to nothing. Forgive the fear that frightfully holds the borders of our comfort zones. Help us look to you who sends us children and strangers – the ones who give us a glimpse of the eternity we are too often blinded to. God, who has given us the gift of time and of each other, as you’ve held us in this place as we worshipped, hold us to your vision as we leave. We ask this in the strong and the gentle name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn 736** Give thanks for life, the measure of our days

## **Sending**

## **Blessing**

## **Sending music**

Worship leader: Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

Reader: Lorna Cammock

Musicians: Mary Godden and James McNeill

Soloist: Frances Cooper

Scripture Readings: New Revised Standard Version Anglicised

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

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