

St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 21st May 2023

'What on earth is the Church?'



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord,

**Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel.**

Awesome is God in his sanctuary,
the God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people.

Blessed be God!

from Psalm 68

Hymn 122 Let all the world in every corner sing

Opening Prayer and 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 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 718 We cannot measure how you heal

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

Isaiah 51: 1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Anthem O come, ye servants of the Lord Christopher Tye

Matthew 16: 13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Hymn 619 Spirit of the living God

Reflection

What on earth is the Church?

Hymn Here is love, vast as the ocean

1. Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.
2. On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

3. Let me, all Thy love accepting,
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only,
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see;
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.
4. In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and pow'r on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to thee.

William Rees (1802-1883)

Prayers of the People

Hymn 248 For my sake and the gospel's, go

Sending and blessing

Sending music

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison
Prayers of the People: Diana Thurston-Smith
Scripture Reader: Barbara Finlayson
Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

Sources:

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.

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