

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 17th September 2023 10.30am**

**'The Mathematics of Forgiveness'**



**Gathering music**

**Welcome**

**Call to worship**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;**

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
**so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children,  
**so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

<sup>21</sup> Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
**his ministers that do his will.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

*Psalm 103: 8-13, 21, 22b*

**Hymn 457** All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

## 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 466** Before the throne of God above

## Scripture Readings (NRSV) *Genesis 50: 15-21*

### Joseph Forgives His Brothers

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

**Anthem** Notre Père (The Lord's Prayer) by Maurice Duruflé

## Scripture Readings (NRSV) *Matthew 18: 21-35*

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven-times.

<sup>23</sup> 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me,

and I will pay you everything.”<sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.<sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.”<sup>29</sup> Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.”<sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt.<sup>31</sup> When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.<sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.<sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?”<sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt.<sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

**Hymn 87** Lord, from the depth to thee I cried

**Reflection** ‘The Mathematics of Forgiveness’

**Hymn 721** We lay our broken world

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn 468** Son of God, eternal Saviour

**Sending and blessing**

**Benediction**

**Sending music**

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Worship Assistants: Susan McLarty

Scripture Reader:

Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

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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