

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 1 November 2020

A window of blessings



Stained glass window by Alfred Webster

Piano Music *Für Alina* (1976) Arvo Pärt

Welcome

Call to Worship

Seasons of the Spirit

Beloved of God, let us gather in worship.

Beloved are all who worship and give thanks.

Beloved – all who have hungered and who thirst, in body or spirit, let us gather in worship.

Beloved – all who grieve and mourn, and strive for healing of the soul, let us gather in worship.

Beloved – all who feel meek, who struggle for power and strength in this overwhelming world, let us gather in worship.

Beloved – you who have shown mercy, who seek peace, and who stand up for justice, let us gather in worship.

Beloved are you who follow Jesus' way.

In our worship, let us hear this invitation to be known and seen by God.

Come, let us gather and hear again the affirmations of Jesus as we worship.

Hymn 124 Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
praise God, my soul, for in him are your health and salvation;
come all who hear,
into his presence draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who in all things is wondrously reigning,
shields you from harm and is gently yet firmly sustaining.
Have you not seen
how your heart's wishes have been
granted by God's wise ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who with blessing and power will defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you;
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do:
God will for ever befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680),
transl. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)
Tune: Lobe den Herren

Opening Prayer

Seasons of the Spirit

In a world full of pain and confusion,
we come seeking your healing and clarity.
In a world overwhelmed with information and ideas,
we come seeking guidance about which to choose and listen to.
In a world of diversity and confusion,
we come wanting to celebrate your exuberance,
yet needing your wisdom to understand each other fully.
In a world where creation itself moans for new life,
we come hoping to be guided toward renewal.
Like the multitudes who gathered to listen to Jesus,
we gather to listen to you, Loving God. Amen

Prayer of Confession

It's not "right" in this world to be poor.
It's not considered "good" to be weak or vulnerable.
We get the message everywhere that success is measured by wealth,
power, and privilege,

yet we want you to know, Great Creator, that we hear you speaking clearly about what the “right” road is.

We hear you inviting us to understand that in our poverty we can find great wealth; in our weakness, we can find surprising strength;

and that in our lost-ness, we are found by you.

We confess, Shepherding Lamb, that we struggle to accept these truths, but we are here to be forgiven, healed, and guided again on right paths.

Lead us, we pray. Amen

Words of Affirmation

There were multitudes hearing it from Jesus...

There will be multitudes gathered hearing it in the new heaven...

And wherever we are, as one or many, we are offered the same words of healing and renewal: Blessed are you. Beloved are you.

All Saints Day

Hymn 740 For all the saints, who from their labours rest (verses 1,4,7,8)

For all the saints, who from their labours rest;
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

William Walsham How (1823-1897)

New Testament Reading Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reflections A window of blessings

(Taizé Chant)

The Beatitudes for today

Hymn 533 *The Summons* (verses 1, 2)

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule
Tune: Kelvingrove

Prayers for Others and the Lord’s Prayer

God of all blessedness,
we turn to you now with our prayers for others.
We pray for those whose spirit fails them,
that they might be strengthened in their faith;
for those whose poverty is physical,
that they might have an equal share in the fruits of your kin-dom;
for those whose outlook on life is dim,
that they might have a glimpse of hope and purpose.

We pray for all who are cast down by grief.

We think especially of those who lost loved ones in the attack
on a congregation at worship in Nice,
that they might know the comfort of love.

We pray for those who are grieving loved ones from the Aegean earthquake
and from the heart-breaking loss of men, women and children in a channel crossing this
week as they attempted to find a better life.

We pray for the broken and despised,
the marginalised and the downtrodden,
We pray for all who work for peace:
peace in relationships;
peace in communities;
peace in politics;
peace in places of conflict;
peace for the body, mind and soul ...
that all might see themselves and others as God's children.

We pray for leaders and those they lead.
We hold the American people in our thoughts and prayers
as they head towards election day.
The result will impact the entire world for years to come.
May all elected leaders display humility and make decisions that respect the dignity of all
and nurture the healing of the nations.

And as we pray for others,
we pray also that you will hold us always in communion with the saints of all the ages,
and whose memories, example and closeness bless us, even at this present time.
Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught saying:

**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.**

Hymn 533 *The Summons* (verse 5)

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

Blessing

Beloved of God, go in peace, inviting all to know their belovedness.
Go now, with the blessings of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to keep you in blessedness,
now and always. Amen

Sung Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Organ Music

Minister and Leaders: Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, David and Marie Austin

Scripture Reading: Joanna Stark

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

Vocal ensemble: Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew Crichton, Tim Cooper, Andrew Carvel

Piano: Max McWhirter

Organ: Drew Crichton

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

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