

## St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 25 October 2020

### What is the Greatest Commandment?



**Music**      Granny Hirst's 100<sup>th</sup> set      Joanna Stark, Fiddle

#### **Welcome**

#### **Call to Worship**

Into your presence we come, Lord God,  
into your dwelling place,

**acknowledging we are so very small before your holiness.**

A thousand years are like a day to you,  
a day like a dream, like a blade of grass growing fresh each morning,  
**and yet you love us.**

May we rejoice in our praise and prayer today.

**We ask for some sense of your glorious power.**

Let us worship the Lord!

#### **Hymn 115**    Love is the touch of intangible joy

Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in the lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker, and Spirit and Son;

love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the pathway the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Words: Alison Robertson, Tune: Amor Dei

## Opening Prayer

adapted from Spill the Beans

God of love, our foundation and source,  
we stand in awe of your unending love for your beloved children,  
we know that your great love is given freely and in abundance for all,  
whatever or whoever we are.

God of love,  
we give thanks this day for the message, for the commandment,  
to love and to be loved.  
Guide us in our journey to truly live as you have commanded,  
teach us to love you, to love our neighbour, and to love ourselves.

God of love,  
it is the greatest of your commands,  
and though we strive to live each day attempting to fulfil it, we too often fail.  
In a world of conflicting allegiances and distractions, where it can be a challenge to  
care, help us to know your love.

God of love,  
teach us to know a love that is patient, kind, and giving,  
that seeks justice and equality for all;  
to recognise that discrimination and prejudice must be overcome  
for us to achieve true community,  
a life lived in the warmth of kindly love, given freely,  
Amen.

## Confession

God of mercy,  
whose heart is full of forgiveness,  
and who does not deal with us as we deserve:  
When we have thought of ourselves more highly than we ought  
and forgotten to put our relationship with You first;

**Forgive us, we pray.**

When we have loved only those who love us  
and ignored or turned aside from those who need a smile  
and a hand of friendship;

**Forgive us, we pray.**

When we have acted as if all tomorrow was ours  
yet neglected to do good in the moment of this day;

**Forgive us, we pray.**

May Christ Jesus,  
free us from our faults  
and all that would hold us back  
from being the children  
that the eternal and loving God desires;

**Amen**

## **New Testament Reading Matthew 22: 34-46** A paraphrase from Spill the Beans

### **Questions**

Question time in the temple again.

Questions to trap Jesus.

Everyone was asking questions.

From the Pharisees and the Herodians, questions about taxes.

From the Sadducees, questions about resurrection.

From a lawyer, a question about the Law.

“Teacher,” the lawyer asked, “What does the law say is the greatest Commandment?”

The Mosaic law was complicated - the Ten Commandments were only the beginning, there were hundreds of rules and regulations.

Everyone waited.

What would be Jesus’ answer?

“Love God,” said Jesus, “love God with everything you’ve got, your heart, your mind, your soul, your dreams, your hopes, your passions. Love God, that’s the greatest commandment.”

And...

Everyone waited.

“There is another commandment, that is just as important as loving God and it’s this: love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.” Before the lawyer could ask another question Jesus added, “These two great commandments, that’s it. Within these two commandments you can find all the teaching of Moses and the prophets.”

The lawyer looked stunned - all his life he had studied the teaching of the law and the prophets, word by word, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, law by law, and Jesus was telling him that what was important was not a detailed study of the law, rather it was a lifetime of discovering what loving God and other people, and loving yourself, was all about.

Jesus could see that a group of Pharisees were gathered together nearby, listening and thinking, and he decided to ask them a question: “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son do you think he is?” And they answered him, “David’s son.”

“Well, if the Messiah is David’s son, how do you explain that David, in one of his songs, called the Messiah his master. If David calls the Messiah his master, how can he also be his son?” None of the Pharisees could answer Jesus. They were aware now that Jesus could ask tricky questions too, as well as answer them, and from that day onwards they didn’t ask him any more questions.

### **Reflection**

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

**The people of God have a human face  
We laugh,  
we weep,  
we wait in hope.  
We lift our eyes,  
and love  
and struggle,**

**We fail  
We stand  
And always we stand on trembling ground.**

**But God is God  
and Jesus is the Christ  
and the Spirit  
will lift up our feet.  
Nothing lies beyond  
the love of God in Christ.**

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

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

Words: Richard Gillard Tune: Servant Song

### **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

#### **Invitation**

Who would we invite for dinner if we could choose the people?

I know who would be invited to our table.

People we miss and those we have wanted to be with for months.

People escaping from other countries, because they are the ones who find it hard to get here.

People in our own homes because they are seemingly always going to be here.

People we have never met, whose lives impressed us from the stories we heard.

People who can teach us new songs and tell us about different ways of living together.

Christ invites all to this table.

Through this meal we are made One.

## Eucharistic Prayer

Elizabeth Baxter

Before life stirred  
your Spirit brooded over darkness  
exploding light in all directions.

**Rainbow promise  
celebrated your creation.**

Your Spirit led a people to long for you,  
**guiding them gently:  
a pillar of cloud by day;  
fire by night.**

Prophets spoke of your justice  
dancing Spirit songs of liberation;  
**with tambourine and whispered hope.**

Your still small voice in lonely places;  
**as dry bones lived  
and friendships blossomed.**

With tender Spirit passion  
you embodied Love  
nestling in the womb of Mary  
**calling fishermen,  
accompanying women,  
blessing children.**

They found themselves on Calvary's road  
accompanying Love  
to the cross and the tomb;  
Meeting Love in the garden and on the shore;  
**Taking the risk of letting go  
so the Spirit of comfort might  
come to them.**

Accompanying Christ today in one another  
with life-giving encounters of grace,  
we flesh out the Spirit's fruit  
through Spirit gifts  
in communities of hope;  
**celebrating the gifts of others  
sustaining us on our journeys;  
our hearts burn within us  
as we feel the stirrings of your presence,**

Touch us by your Spirit  
**as we touch this bread and wine,  
fruits of the earth to nourish us**

with the very presence of Christ;  
as we recall the night of betrayal  
after he had washed the feet of his companions,  
when Jesus blessed bread,  
breaking it and  
sharing it, saying,  
'This is my body, which is giving for you;  
Do this to re-member me.'

We recall the moment after supper  
when Jesus blessed the cup  
he gave to them saying,  
'Drink this all of you;  
this is my blood  
of the new promise  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sin;  
do this as often as you drink it  
to re-member me.

Blazing Spirit,  
light these gifts with holy fire,  
so we who receive them  
may be ablaze with your love.  
As we re-member  
fractured stories  
of your marred image,  
broken bodies of inhospitality  
and blood spilt in war and waste  
do not leave us in this place of loneliness;  
do not abandon us.

### **Come make your home in us.**

In this humble meal we receive you;  
in our embodied hospitality  
you take your refuge;  
when your wings are broken  
and your fire quenched.

Come, Spirit, yearn for us  
as we yearn for you.  
Together we shall burst the bars of fear  
flying freely,  
bringing warmth to the earth  
and winds of justice  
To those who cry, 'Peace'.

## **The breaking and sharing of the bread**

The Spirit calls us to break down the walls of division;  
to break through the barriers of fear;  
to break out of our tombs of apathy.  
So, we break this bread as a symbol of solidarity (the bread is broken)  
with all communities who work and pray to this end.  
This is our unity with all that breathes and the Spirit of God,  
and our commitment to embody the fruits and gifts of Pentecost.

These are gifts of God – for all God’s people in every age.  
Let us eat. Let us drink.

### **Anthem During Communion** To thee O Lord

To thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.  
My God, I trust in thee.

From the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom, translated AM Henderson.  
Music: Sergei Rachmaninov

### **Hymn 661** Eat this bread, drink this cup

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Trust in me and you will not thirst.  
Taizé Community, from John 6

## **Sharing the Peace**

We have experienced the peace that Jesus offers.  
May we share that peace others in our daily living.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

## **Blessing**

Iona Abbey Worship Book

The blessing of action  
the blessing of reflection  
the blessing of a God  
who is in each of these, and in each one of us,  
be with you all. 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**      Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux      L.-N. Clérambault

Minister and Leaders: Rev Dr Rosie Magee, Alison Campbell, Crispin Longden, Katie McNeill.

Scripture paraphrase: Lachlan and Niall Angus

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Pianists: Tim Cooper, Eleanor Cozens

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

British Sign Language interpreter: Louise Holden

Sources:

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