

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service 15 November 2020**

Servant Hands



Music 'Granny Hirst's 100th Set'

Welcome

Call to Worship

based on Micah 6:8

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

It is good to be together, God,
on screens and people,
together listening for your voice,
united by your Spirit.

In this time of worship
tell us about your kingdom of kindness
so that we can seek it.
Show us your justice.
We want to walk with you,
humbly, closely, daily,
through your Spirit of grace and truth.

Hymn 608 Spirit of truth and grace

Spirit of truth and grace,
come to us in this place
as now in Jesus' name God's people gather.
Open our eyes to see
truths that will ever be,
and in communion draw us close together.

Spirit of joy and peace,
make all anxieties cease
with knowledge of the Father's perfect caring.
Then may God's children know
love that won't let us go
and joy that fills each day, beyond comparing.

Spirit of life and power,
revive us in this hour
and stir our hearts to praise with true devotion.
Fill us with heavenly fire,
and every heart inspire,
that we may serve the world with your compassion.

Words: Iain D Cunningham (b. 1954)

Tune: Down Ampney

Opening Prayer

Yvonne Morland

In our damaged histories,
Lord, redeem us from our past.
In our willing acts of conflict,
Lord, lead us to seek peace.
In our divisions and extremism,
Lord, unite us with your love.
In our confusion, indecision,
Lord, steady us with your power.
In our muddled intentions,
Lord, enlighten us with your truth. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Look at your hands – see the touch and the tenderness;
Explore how their lines tell the story of your life.
Hold them open to receive the richness of the living world,
with which we come in contact every day.
Fold them together, in gratitude for those
whose lives touch ours, whose love holds us.
Cup them, open handed, to receive the blessing of God's compassion
and extend it to others

(based on prayer in Iona Abbey Worship Book)

as we pray together 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.**

Psalm 123 – a Psalm for our times, including reading of the Psalm (NIV)

I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.
²As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he shows us his mercy.
³Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.
⁴We have endured no end
of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud.

Hymn 374 From heaven you came helpless babe

From heaven you came helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

Reflection

Tania's Story

Hymn 362 Heaven shall not wait (vv 1,2)

Heaven shall not wait
for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord;
he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait
for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord;
he has shown the master's privilege –
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Prayers for Others

Lord, you ask us to walk with you, love kindness and do justice.
We think today about how we can serve you in seeking justice for others.

Our words cannot express, or our minds fully comprehend, when we hear of men, women and children deceived and transported to unknown places, forced into labour for the gain of those who claim ownership. We cry out against the degrading and dehumanising practice of slavery and pray for it to end. Give us eyes to see that it happens right under our noses, in this city of Edinburgh.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We pray for women and children around the world who right now are suffering at the hands of those who should love and protect them. For those who fear the clenched fist that brings daily violence. We pray for those whose bodies are being bought and sold for sex, who have stories that go unheard, and those who are walking the long journey of healing. For you are a God who seeks to make whole that which has been broken. We bring to you, in silence, prayers for healing from our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are caught up in systems that take too long and seem unfair. We pray for the justice in our world to work for those who have been abused and for those who need protecting. May those in positions of responsibility do all they can to protect victims rather than abusers. We pray that abusers and perpetrators would be held accountable for their actions. Hold us accountable too. Enable us to show the same grace that you have lavished on us to those who have abused their power and caused other harm. Increase our faith that you can soften even the hardest of hearts.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Almighty God, we can feel helpless in the face so much suffering.
Help us keep our eyes trained on you.
With open hands we offer back to you what is ours to do.
Take it into your hands
so that we can be used to bring even a flicker of justice
that might not otherwise exist.
As the body of Christ, help us to be your hands and feet in the world.
We pray, as we serve, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn 362 Heaven shall not wait (vv 3,4)

Heaven shall not wait
for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord;
he has married word and action;
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait
for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord
in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now;
and then for evermore.

John L Bell (b.1949)
and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with a restless discomfort
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may seek truth boldly and live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with the gift of tears
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all they
cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their
pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

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 A Voluntary for the Trumpet Stop

John Stanley

Worship Leaders: Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Dorothy Tarrant

Scripture Reading: Dorothy Mackenzie

Reading: Ruth Forester

Prayer: Jane Brown

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Pianists: Tim Cooper, Eleanor Cozens

Fiddle: Joanna Stark

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

Sources:

Iona Abbey Worship Book, The Iona Community, 2001

Tania's Story: www.unseenuk.org

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