

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 17 January 2021

The Power of Invitation



Music Lift up the gates eternal, lift up your voices:
for God in glory comes, the nation rejoices.

See all the earth is God's,
its people and nations:
God built it on the deeps
and laid its foundations.

Come lift your voices high,
be lifted to glory:
the Saviour God approaches,
come, shout the story.

Who is this glorious one,
for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty One,
our God celebrating.

Words: Ps 24, Arlo D. Duba (d. 1984) and Willard F Jabusch

Welcome

Call to Worship

Welcome to church:
not a place, but an invitation;
not a building, but a way of engaging;
not a service, but a way of serving;
not an institution, but a path to adventure.
In this new year,

let us gather,
and welcome each other:
make space for all,
decide to love more,
and break the rules of the world
with the generosity of the kingdom.
And if anyone asks “why?”
or “how?” or “what does it all mean?”
simply use Jesus’ own words:
“Come and see!”

Hymn 36 God is our refuge and our strength

God is our refuge and our strength,
in straits a present aid;
therefore, although the earth remove
we will not be afraid:

Though hills amidst the seas be cast;
though waters roaring make,
and troubled be; yea, though the hills
by swelling seas do shake.

A river is, whose streams make glad
the city of our God;
the holy place, wherein the Lord
most high hath his abode.

God in the midst of her doth dwell;
nothing shall her remove;
the Lord to her an helper will,
and that right early, prove.

Palm 46, verses 1-5
The Scottish Psalter, 1929

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

Loving God
may we pray
less with statements
and more with questions.

(Draw a large question mark in the air with your hands and
invite everyone to follow).

May we pray
less with sounds
and more with silence.

(Put a finger to your lips and invite everyone to follow.)

May we pray
less with words

and more with acts.

(Clench fists and place one on top of the other repeatedly like you are building up and invite everyone to follow).

So we may see
and feel
and know
there is something new,
indescribable,
here for us all
new every day:
your love
for us all.

(Place your hands over your heart, crossed over, and invite everyone to follow that action)

Amen.

Update from Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi

Hymn 533 Will you come and follow me (vv1,2)

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?

Scripture Readings

Old Testament 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

New Testament John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Hymn 533 Will you come and follow me (vv 4,5)

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

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.

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

Reflection

Anthem New Year Carol

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
for to worship God with this happy New Year.

Sing levy dew, sing levy dew,
the water and the wine;
the seven bright gold wires
and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

Words: Walter de la Mare, from Tom Tiddler's Ground
Music: Benjamin Britten

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for other people and for ourselves.

Loving God, we come to you in what is still a new year – only 2 weeks old – but already seems to hold weariness, worry, loneliness and impossible demands for so many of us. We looked forward with so much hope at the birth of Jesus as a baby, but we see only more of the same that wore us down in 2020.

Loving God, we see you in Jesus

Show us what to do

We know we are well off in worldly terms compared with so many others, but suddenly we realise what it is like to be afraid – of other people, of the outside world, of having no job, of being alone. Or of the opposite – of having to be near people who might be infectious, of having to help our children learn when we have always left that to others, of having to take decisions about other people's wellbeing that we do not feel qualified for.

Loving God, we see you in other people

Show us what to do

Reassure us that in following you we can find the right way, that in seeing you in other people we can know what you are like, that in accepting our small or large challenges, we can cope because you are beside us.

We know that when you say to us "Come", you are not expecting us to do more than we are capable of, that you are not expecting us to be heroes or to move mountains. But help us to do the best we can, to love the most difficult people, knowing that you love us however difficult we are, to see the best in others as you see the best in us.

Loving God, we see such needs around us

Show us what to do

We pray for, and we thank you for, the people who do heroic things as part of their job – nurses, paramedics, doctors, police and fire officers.

We pray for and thank you for the people who take unpopular decisions because there is no other option – hospital administrators, politicians, social workers, judges and advocates, public health officials.

We pray for and we thank you for our families who are so concerned for us that they deprive themselves of our help and our company.

We pray for and we thank you for people we know overseas in difficult and dangerous places, facing floods, tribal wars, failed harvests, disease in their children and death in childbirth.

We pray for our friends in Mulanje, in South Sudan, in America, in Europe, and in our longing to see them and help them, we pray that we find strength in your companionship.

We pray for new governments, starting out with the burden of people's hopes and fears, especially in the United States this week. Help us to walk in other people's shoes, to understand different opinions but to speak for what is right without aggression or unkindness.

Loving God, we struggle to see your purpose in the world

Show us what to do

May we find you in the next turning, around the next bend, in the mist that still falls over the future. May we find the wonder again in your story and choose to follow it.

May we find the mystery, and trust it. May we find our meeting place with you, and from there move towards our neighbours, our community, our society and our world.

Loving God, walk beside us in the person of Jesus as we pray his 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.

Hymn 706 For the Healing of the Nations

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Words: Fred Kaan (b.1929)

Blessing

God bless us today that we may be a blessing
in our seeing,
in our hearing,
in our speaking.

God bless to us today that we may be a blessing
in our reaching out,
in our holding on,
in our letting go.

God bless to us today that we may be a blessing
in our thinking,
in our feeling,
in our loving. Amen.

Sung Blessing Hymn 786 May the God of peace go with us

May the God of peace go with us
as we travel from this place;
may the love of Jesus keep us
firm in hope and full of grace.

Words: Ian Jamieson (b. 1939)
Music: Scottish traditional melody

Organ Music Maestoso (Sonata No III)

Felix Mendelssohn

Worship Leaders: Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Alison Campbell
Opening Prayer: Campbell family
Scripture Readers: James and Veronica Crerar
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West

Solo: Frances Cooper

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

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

Sources:

Image: Pixaby

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