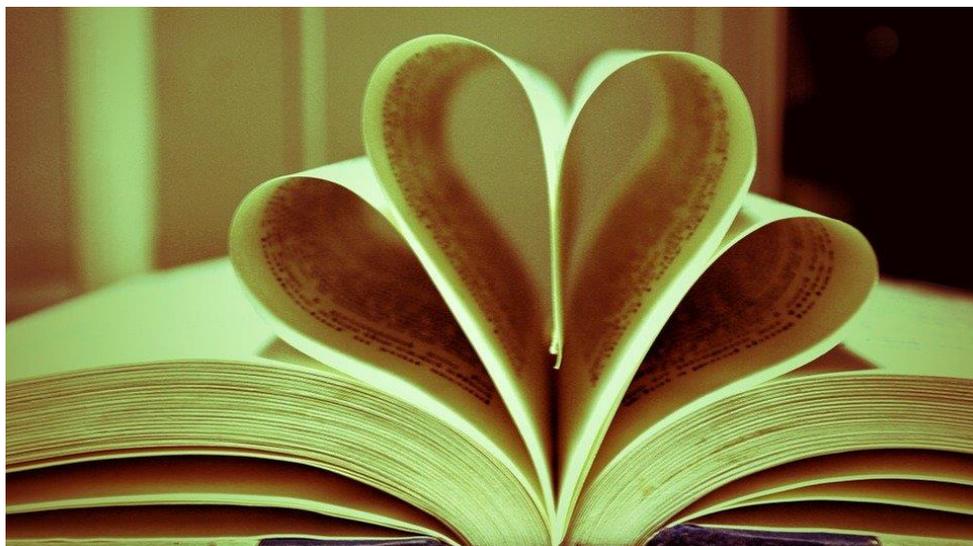


St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 21 March, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Heartfelt Promise



Music

Just as I am

Charlotte Elliott

Welcome and Call to Worship

This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey,
be with us, Lord, as we take this step together.
Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.
Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day.
God's mercy floods over us.
God's love pours into us.
Lord, pour your love into every pore of our being.
Let the love and mercy of God reign in our hearts as we worship God.

Hymn 227 The earth is yours, O God

The earth is yours, O God,
you nourish it with rain;
the streams and rivers overflow,
the land bears seed again.

The soil is yours, O God,
the shoots are moist with dew,
and, ripened by the burning sun,
the corn grows straight and true.

The hills are yours, O God,
their grass is lush and green,

providing pastures for the flocks,
which everywhere are seen.

The whole rich land is yours,
for fodder or for plough,
and so, for rain, sun, soil and seed,
O God, we thank you now.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

We thank you for the wonder of Creation. As we see the beauty of spring unfolding around us, help us pause and wonder at the flowers' delicate and quiet strength as they push through the dark, cold earth.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

We thank you for the gift of life: for the breath that sustains life, for the food of this earth that nurtures life, for the love of family and friends without which there would be no life.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

We thank you for the mystery of creation: for the beauty that the eye can see, for the joy that the ear may hear, for music and those who share their talents with us:
for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder, for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

God our maker, we know in our hearts we sometimes lose sight of your great generosity and the beauty which you create all around us. Forgive us when we are ungrateful, when our hearts are not turned to you. Forgive us, too, if we hold these gifts close and forget that your provision is for all people and created to be shared, that it is not for us to hold to ourselves.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

We thank you for the law which you promised to embed in our hearts and minds –
And for sending Jesus, who embodies that promise of love and inclusion.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

We come today to hear more of Jesus and to become more like him: and we use the prayer he taught –

**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.**

Your Beating Heart Based on Jeremiah 31:31–34

God's message was this: "I have a new promise, and it will be part of each of you – not just in your thoughts, but in your feelings and your body – in your beating heart! And not just in you who have money and lots of possessions, but also inside you who have nothing and feel like you don't matter. Because everyone matters to me, this is the promise I want all of you to keep alive forever: I am God for everyone! Always! Without thinking, experience me, my love, and how I always forgive you. Remembering my promise will be as natural as your beating heart!"

Reflection - Heartfelt

Hymn Jesus Walks Beside us in Scotland

By the banks and the braes, by the machair and the bogs,
on the roads and the paths of Scotland,
on the islands and the hills, in the forests and the fields,
in the crannies and the nooks of Scotland.

Chorus Wherever we come from, wherever we're going,
Jesus walks beside us in Scotland.
Whatever we're facing, whatever we're feeling,
Jesus walks beside us in Scotland.

In the schools and the jails, in the castles and the crofts,
in the shops and the schemes of Scotland,
in the stadiums and kirks, in the villages and towns,
in the bingos and the chip shops of Scotland.

Chorus

In the ups and the downs, in the yeses and the noes,
in the twists and the turns of Scotland,
in the old and the new, in the haves and the nots
in the dreich and the dry of Scotland.

Chorus

New Testament Reading John 12: 20-26 (NRSV)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

Reflection - Promise

One Little Seed

Here is one little seed,
that I want to keep,
I don't want to let it go,
it's a seed of love and care,
should I keep or should I share
so the love in the world can grow?

Here is one little seed,
I'll plant it at my feet,
I'm happy to let it go,
it's a seed of love and care,
that God wants me to share
so the love in the world can grow!

Hymn 736 Give thanks for life (vv1-3)

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give thanks for those whose lives shone with a light
caught from the Christ-flame, gleaming through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right:

Give thanks for all, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread:

Prayers for Others

Lord, we are grateful for all the people you have blessed us to know and for all the relationships that fill our hearts with joy. We pray for anyone who is estranged from a friend or family member and who desires to heal the heartbreak.

We pray wholeheartedly for those who feel forgotten and unseen, and struggle to be heard. We pray for those who do not feel comfortable, or at home, in their own bodies, especially where there is bullying or shaming. Where lack of awareness or insight brings pain, bring your healing.

We pray for those who struggle with their mental health. May resources be released to help, enough staff employed, and finances given to provide help and support nationally and internationally. We pray wholeheartedly for those who wrestle with sorrow, that they may know your comfort when the night feels long or unsafe.

We thank you for the voices in the world that speak out to promote growth in peace and justice, even and especially when those voices are not welcomed and do so at great personal risk.

We are grateful for all who serve others in any capacity, especially those who nurture others to fulfil their true embodied potential. In doing so, they follow in Jesus' footsteps.

In a moment's silence
we offer the people and places we know of where your presence and healing touch
are especially needed today.

(silence)

With our whole hearts - body, mind and spirit - we thank you that we can come
before you in prayer and that you are faithful to listen and respond. Amen.

Hymn 736 Give thanks for life (v4)

Give thanks for hope that, like the seed of grain
lying in darkness, does its life retain
to rise in glory, growing green again:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessing and Sending

Live now, to serve Christ and follow him.
Let your old life fall like a grain of wheat into the earth
so that you may grow and bear much fruit
as you allow God to reshape your heart
and live in obedience to the law written within you.

And may God the Creator centre you in truth, and steady your spirit.
May God the Redeemer renew your joy and strengthen your will.
And may God the Sustainer teach you God's hidden wisdom
and fill you with songs and strength for the journey. Amen.

Organ Music *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten* BWV 642 J. S. Bach

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Katie McNeill

Readers: Your Beating Heart: Adrienne Burgess

New Testament Reading: Anthony Simon

One Little Seed: Eilidh, Iona and Edward

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Prelude: Sung by Selda Dow

Pianist: Tim Cooper

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

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

Image: Pixabay

Hymns from CH4 unless otherwise stated.

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Jesus Walks Beside us in Scotland [Fischy Music] *written by Stephen Fischbacher and Suzanne Butler*. Commissioned by the Church of Scotland in 2016.

Opening Prayer: Adapted from Church of Scotland Weekly Worship, Steve Aisthorpe.

Your Beating Heart: Seasons of the Spirit, 21 March 2021, Wood Lake Publishing Inc.

One Little Seed by Jo Love, Spill the Beans issue 38 ©2021 Spill the Beans Resource Team.

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