

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 11 April 2021
Second Sunday of Easter

“Behind Locked Doors”



Introit I hear the voice of God calling to me every day,
 I hear the voice of God calling every day.

Welcome

Prayer on the death of The Duke of Edinburgh

Almighty and everlasting God, 'the life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.'

But You are forever, from everlasting to everlasting, and we put our trust in You for You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

Loving Lord, in this last year, through the worst of a global pandemic, we've been face to face with our fragility and vulnerability, perhaps for some of us as never before.

Against that backdrop of hurt and loss, we give you thanks for the life and service of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Some are called to the front of the stage, others to supporting roles and we rejoice in the way he supported Her Majesty the Queen through all of the years of her reign.

We remember, too, his work supporting charities and, perhaps most memorably for young people for over sixty years, his patronage of The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

In this hour of loss, we offer our heartfelt prayers for Her Majesty and her family. Comfort them in their loss, bind up their wounds and grant them the consolation of a store of treasured memories. Grant Her Majesty the peace that comes from knowing you and which passes all understanding.

These and all our prayers we ask in the name of Jesus, who through his life, death and resurrection offers us hope instead of despair, life instead of death. Amen.

Call to Worship

What great joy we have!

Our Lord is risen!

Believe with your whole heart in the miracle of resurrection.

We open our hearts to the good news of God's faithfulness to us.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Hymn Now the green blade riseth

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain ;
love lives again, that with the dead has been :

*Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.*

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen :

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen :

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been :

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray.

God of Wonder and of unexpected delight, as we celebrate Christ's risen presence among us today we pray that you would open to us your word.

Talk to us as we journey along life's way, meet us as we share in fellowship with one another, and so move in us that we may claim all your promises as our own.

Forgive us O God for the times that we fail to notice your presence among us.

In the wonder, the beauty, the richness of the world you have made, we often miss seeing your glory, creator God.

In the mystery and beauty of a new-born child, in the extraordinary complexities of the human body and soul, we often miss seeing your glory, creator God.

In the sacrificial giving of a son, loved more than we can ever know or understand, we often miss seeing your glory, saving God.

In your coming to us, in the meeting of our needs, when sadness or loneliness threaten to overwhelm our very being, we often miss seeing your glory, comforting God.

In the meeting with other people, in the being with a friend, in the sharing of a meal, in the listening to someone in need, we often miss seeing your glory, loving God. As we make journeys along the road of life, some joyous, others with a heavy heart, you walk with us, loving God, we praise and thank you that you always see us. Open our eyes and quicken our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and 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.**

New Testament Reading St John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn How often we like Thomas Tune: Sally Gardens

How often we, like Thomas,
need proof before we trust.
Lord Jesus, friend of doubters,
come, speak your truth to us.
We long to feel your presence,
and gain new faith from you,
to find, without our seeing,
the blessing Thomas knew.

You always stand among us,
no doors can lock you out.
Your presence reassures us
though we still live with doubt.
As present-day disciples,
whose lives by sin are flawed,
we want to come believing,
and cry: 'My Lord, my God!'

Reflection

Anthem The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie in pastures green:
he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill:
for thou art with me and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
and in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be.

Prayers of the People

Easter God, we give thanks, not only for the joyful news of resurrection,
but also for the different ways in which different people came to believe that it was true;
that it didn't come instantly or easily to any of them, and for some, like Thomas,
it involved questioning and defiance, because if it was by some strange chance true,
it was too important to accept on hearsay.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We give thanks for all seekers after truth in every realm of human enquiry:
science, mathematics, astronomy, history, philosophy.
Thank you for their questions and their lateral thinking;
for their refusal to accept what other people have told them,
or even to trust their own theories without evidence to back them up.
Thank you for their willingness to be proved wrong.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Dear Lord, inspire and invigorate the research doctors who have created vaccines to
prevent Covid-19, and identified protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.
Be with our leaders responsible for making decisions about Coronavirus,
and other important matters that affect the lives and futures of our families,
communities, countries, and the wider world.

We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly with each other and with the
public and that their messages are received and heeded.

May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

May those who are sick today find healing, and may those who care for them know strength, encouragement and wisdom in all that they do.
In a moment of silence we name those people and situations known to us where your gentle healing touch is needed today.
We remember those we have lost to Covid 19.
And all those loved by us that we have lost in the last year.
May they find eternal life in the glory of heaven.

Silence

We ask all these prayers, as trusting believers, in the knowledge that our Lord Jesus Christ is risen and is listening to us today. **Amen**

Hymn The Saviour died but rose again

The Saviour died, but rose again
triumphant from the grave ;
and pleads our cause at God's right hand,
omnipotent to save.

Who then can e'er divide us more
from Jesus and his love,
or break the sacred chain that binds
the earth to heaven above ?

Let troubles rise, and terrors frown,
and days of darkness fall ;
through him all dangers we'll defy,
and more than conquer all.

Nor death nor life, nor earth nor hell,
nor time's destroying sway,
can e'er efface us from his heart,
or make his love decay.

Each future period that will bless,
as it has blessed the past :
he loved us from the first of time,
he loves us to the last.

Blessing We say together

**Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it. Amen.**

Organ A Voluntary for the Trumpet Stop

John Stanley

Worship Leaders: Rev Matthew Bicket, David and Marie Austin
Scripture Reader: James Crerar
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris
Vocal Ensemble: Eleanor Cozens, Caitlin McGillivray, Eleanor Wilson, Drew Crichton,
Andrew Carvel
Choir: The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West
Technical Team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott
Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

Image: Matthew Bicket
Call to Worship: Nancy C Townley, Ministry Matters Website
Prayers of the People: Spill the Beans, Church of Scotland weekly worship April 11th and
World Vision internet.
Introit: Stuart Murray Mitchell
Anthem: Words - Psalm 23, The Scottish Psalter 1650; Music - Bob Chilcott (b.1955)
Benediction: Catholic Principals Council, Ontario.
Scripture Reading: New Revised Standard Version
Hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition
Hymns used under licence from CCLI 247862
Streaming licence 351013

St Andrew's & St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh. Charity SC008990
www.stagw.org.uk