

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 9 May 2021  
Christian Aid Week  
Communion not Consumption**



**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

We come to honour the glory of God.

**We come to the source of living water.**

We gather with the family of humanity.

**We celebrate our common home in creation.**

We give thanks for God's generous provision  
**and seek to share it.**

We join with the prophetic voices of today.

**We dare to praise and pray for another possible world.**

To the glory of God, we come.

**Hymn**      Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure

Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure,  
unfolding in beauty the green-growing tree,  
the changing of seasons in mountain and valley  
the stars and the bright restless sea.

Oh, the life of the world is a fountain of goodness  
overflowing in labour and passion and pain,  
in the sound of the city and the silence of wisdom,  
in the birth of a child once again.

Oh, the life of the world is the source of our healing.  
It rises in laughter and wells up in song;  
it springs from the care of the poor and the broken  
and refreshes where justice is strong.

So give thanks for the life and give love to the Maker,  
and rejoice in the gift of the bright risen Son,  
and walk in the peace and the power of the Spirit  
till the days of our living are done.

### **Opening Prayer The Lord's Prayer (Christian Aid Community)**

**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**

### **Blue Letter Day Reflection**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of Hope, Sustainer of all life,  
we give you thanks for the coronavirus vaccines, and all those involved with the vaccine  
programme throughout the world; the scientists, the logistical planners, the health workers  
and the volunteers, to name but a few.  
By the power of your Spirit, may we overflow with hope  
and joy as we see our families, friends, neighbours and communities protected.

God of Justice, Protector of the vulnerable,  
may we be your well-washed hands and willing feet.  
Move us to give and act,  
to challenge the injustices that anger you.

May we seek to protect all your children,  
particularly those for whom the vaccine is currently out of reach.  
With hope and trust we pray.

**Amen.**

#### **Hymn The care of our planet, the threat of extinction**

The care of our planet, the threat of extinction,  
alerts us to need to be stewards of the earth:  
this place of great beauty, our God given tenure,  
the place of our nurture, the globe of our birth.

This place we must guard for each new generation,  
to leave as we found it or, better, restored;  
to share each resource without greed or pretension,  
not barring the needy, not plunder, nor hoard.

The banquet of God is for all of God's people,  
communion companions are both rich and poor,  
our ultimate end will remove all distinctions,  
no birthright or creed can obstruct heaven's door.

God's common wealth love can encompass all nations,  
but here in this place we must all make a start:  
a life of acceptance of sister and brother,  
the practice of loving, a God given art.

## **Scripture Readings**      Prophetic voices from the Bible

### **Micah 6:1-9**

#### **Voice 1**

Listen my people.  
I need to talk with you.  
I have questions.  
I need answers.  
I have cared for you.  
I rescued you from slavery.  
I gave you wise leaders,  
both women and men.  
You need to remember the stories of who I am and what I have done.  
Listen my people.  
I am talking to those of you who live in the countryside.  
I am questioning those of you who live in cities and towns.

#### **Voice 2**

What have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you?  
Speak, the mountains are listening to you.  
The Earth is waiting to hear your voice.  
What can I do?  
What can I bring to God?  
What does God want of me?  
What will keep God happy?  
What will keep God off my back?  
Would God be impressed with barrels and barrels of olive oil?  
Would God be satisfied with thousands of animals from my flocks?  
Perhaps my riches are not enough?  
Should I offer to God the life of my precious first-born child?

#### **Voice 3**

Listen mortal.  
Listen to what God says.  
Look carefully at how God acts.  
Remember the stories of what God has done.

God has shown you clearly what is bad and what is good.  
You are to do justice to act fairly.  
Do justice in the home and in the street and in the marketplace.  
Do justice in your community.  
Work with others to do justice globally.  
Do justice with strangers and friends and family alike.  
You are to love kindness.  
You are to be generous.  
You are to share your resources and share them with a smile.  
You are to care for those in need.  
You are to walk humbly with God.  
No pretence, no bluster.  
You are to walk wisely and purposefully.  
You are to pray and wonder.  
You are to respect the Earth.  
You are to experience and learn who God is and what God is about.  
Listen up mortal.  
God has told you what is good.  
So do it.  
Do justice.  
Love kindness.  
Walk humbly with your God.

#### **Job 14:7-9**

For there is hope for a tree,  
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,  
and that its shoots will not cease.  
Though its root grows old in the earth,  
and its stump dies in the ground,  
yet at the scent of water it will bud  
and put forth branches like a young plant.

#### **Hymn** 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 life's brief span.

### **Prayers of the People**

Loving God,  
we bring our prayers to you with the honesty and directness of the prophets of old.  
Hear the cry of our hearts, Lord, silent and aloud, for bereaved neighbours, near and far.  
Comfort those pained by being absent, and hold close those who are hurting alone.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for contemporary prophets who are challenging us to live differently.  
We pray that you will lead those in power to heed their prophetic voices  
and act for the good of all, rather than the privileged few.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this Christian Aid Week we pray for and with communities across the world who are in need.

We pray for people living in refugee camps and city slums.  
We pray for Christian Aid partners raising the voices of the most vulnerable  
and ensuring they are kept as safe as possible.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for heart breaking events in your world this week.  
We bring before you...

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the coming of a better world with justice, kindness and humility at its heart  
and give thanks for all who live and work to make it a reality.

God in your mercy,  
**hear all our prayers. Amen.**

**Hymn**          For the healing of the nations (v4)

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.

## Blessing

No matter how weak we may feel, we each have gifts that can make a difference in the world during Christian Aid week and beyond.

In this coming week, may we do what we can to support the broken;  
to welcome the stranger;  
to celebrate what is worthy and just.  
It makes each of us a little more whole,  
and a world wide community of love a little more real.

And may the blessing of God, Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit, rest upon you and on all creation,  
this day and for the future to come. Amen.

**Organ Music**    Nun danket alle Gott    Op. 65, No. 59

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Jane Brown

Scripture Readers: Anne Whitehead, Andrew Hawdon, Niall Campbell, Mary Davidson

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Organist: Drew Crichton

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Sources:

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<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/resources>

Scripture reading taken from Christian Aid Resource (Micah) and the New Revised Standard Version

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition except 'The care of our planet, the threat of extinction', by Andrew Pratt. Words © 2019 Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England,

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