

St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service, 2 May 2021

Tended by God



Preparing for Worship

‘There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...’

1 John 4:18

Music “Hornpipe” from Six Pastiches

Cecilia McDowall

Welcome and Call to Worship

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ’s words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

Hymn Christ is made the sure foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one,
holy Zion’s help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today :
with your constant loving-kindness,

hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.
Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
One in might and One in glory
while unending ages run.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we thank you that we can praise you in so many places -
in homes and in churches and everywhere else.

Loving God, we thank you that we can praise you in so many ways,
with sign language and with silence as well as in song
with flute and kazoo
with singing together or praying alone.

Loving God we thank you for the countless ways you connect with us -
through friend and stranger
prayer and action
laughter and tears.

We know that you want us to be connected with each other.
Through you, we are family.

Forgive us when we don't treat each other as we should.
Sometimes, we treat the ones we love worse than those we hardly know
and sometimes we treat strangers really badly.

Yet, you forgive us when we ask you to.
You love us more than anyone in this world loves us.
You always want the best for us.
Help us want the best for each other,
help us share what we have with others,
close to home or far away.
Thank you that through you, we are all connected. Amen.

Holy de-cluttering

New Testament Reading John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can

you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Hymn Lord of Life, we come to you

Lord of life, we come to you.
Lord of all, our Saviour be,
come to bless and to heal
with the light of your love.

Through the days of doubt and toil,
in our joy and in our pain,
guide our steps in your way,
make us one in your love.

Non-gardeners' Question Time

Reflection

Hymn Lord of Life, we come to you

Lord of life, we come to you.
Lord of all, our Saviour be,
come to bless and to heal
with the light of your love.

Through the days of doubt and toil,
in our joy and in our pain,
guide our steps in your way,
make us one in your love.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We turn our thoughts to those most in need of God's loving care.

We remember those for whom lockdown has come as a cruel blow on top of the loneliness they were already experiencing. We think too of those who feel disconnected from people around them, from neighbours, from family and friends. May they all begin to feel small shoots of connectivity again. With each exchange may they find a little lift that encourages them to reach out to those they know and are coming to know. May they receive and in turn give support so that they feel bound together, not alone, and grafted in God's love.

In the silence we name those known to us who are lonely.

We remember those who have lost loved ones over the past year, those for whom life seems meaningless, devoid of joy and without any expectation of ever feeling content again. May they find ways through the winter of their grief, so that gradually the days do

not seem so bleak. May the sun begin to shine again and may they sense more clearly the comfort of God's eternal love.

In the silence we name those we know who are bereaved.

We pray for those whose livelihoods are precarious, people who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic, people whose lives have been turned upside down. Be with them as they struggle to cope with life where what is familiar has been cut back so much that new growth in spirit seems impossible. May they not lose hope. May they find practical support in the months ahead through actions of family and friends, advice sought on the internet or other agencies.

In the silence we name those we know who are struggling with uncertainty.

We pray for those not known to us personally. We turn our thoughts to India where the second wave of Covid-19 has hit and left hospitals unable to cope with the flood of patients needing treatment. We pray that copious supplies of vaccine may arrive swiftly. May they be administered efficiently to the millions of people still waiting for that protection. We remember Myanmar where pro-democracy protests are being quashed with violence by the new military regime. May a peaceful solution be found to political differences so those with differing religious beliefs can live in harmony.

We pray for all countries where political opposition is suppressed with violence, where freedom of speech is an impossibility without fear of reprisals and where equality is still a dream.

We give you thanks for all new growth of justice and of peace in the world – may they be supported and enabled to thrive.

Hear us as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

**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 Holy wisdom, lamp of learning

Holy wisdom, lamp of learning,
bless the light that reason lends.
Teach us judgment as we kindle
sparks of thought your Spirit sends.
Sanctify our search for knowledge
and the truth that sets us free.

Come, illumine mind and spirit
joined in deepest unity.

Vine of truth, in you we flourish ;
by your grace we learn and grow.
May the word of Christ among us
shape our life, your will to know.
Joined to Christ in living, dying,
may we help the Church convey
witness to the saving gospel,
bearing fruit of faith today.

Holy God, the hope of nations,
tune us to your righteous will,
as the symphony of ages
claims our best, our finest skill.
Shape our search for peace and justice
through prophetic deed and word.
Christ, conduct us, set our rhythm,
that God's praise be ever heard.

Blessing

Go now, and love one another,
because love is from God.
Remain in Jesus Christ,
like branches grafted on a vine,
so that they become one.

And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;
may Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;
and may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love. Amen.

Organ Music

Nun lob' mein' Seel den Herren BuxWV 212

Dietrich Buxtehude

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, Diana Thurston Smith

Opening Prayer: Toby Marcham

Scripture Reader: Sheila Adam

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

Flute: Philippa Burgess

Pianist: Eleanor Wilson

Technical Team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott,
Philippa Burgess

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

Drawing: Diana Thurston Smith

Holy De-cluttering – adapted from 'Linked Together' in Spill the Beans issue 38 ©2021

Spill the Beans Resource Team

Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version

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