

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 11 July 2021

Justice not Charity



Hamba nathi “Come walk with us for the journey is long.” *Traditional Xhosa hymn*

Welcome

Call to Worship

Exuberant Spirit of God,
bursting with the brightness of flame
into the coldness of our lives
to warm us with a passion for justice and beauty
we praise you.

Exuberant Spirit of God,
sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy
to breathe vitality into our struggles for change,
we praise you.

Exuberant Spirit of God,
speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust
to convey messages of truth and new understanding.
we praise you.

Exuberant Spirit of God,
flame
wind
speech,
burn, breathe, speak in us;
fill your world with justice and with joy.

Hymn 484 Great God, your love has called us (vv1, 2 & 5)

Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of power, God of people,
You are the life of all that lives,
energy that brings to birth,
the impetus toward making whole whatever is bruised or broken.
In You we grow to know the truth that sets all creation free.
You are the song the whole earth sings,
the promise liberation brings, now and forever.

God of creation, the earth is yours with all its beauty and goodness,
its rich and overflowing provision.
But we have claimed it for our own,
plundered its beauty for profit,
grabbed its resources for ourselves.

God of creation, forgive us.
May we no longer abuse your trust,
but care gently and with justice for your earth. **Amen.**

The Lord's 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: The Song of Kingdom Come (video)

Chorus: I have a voice
You have a voice
We have a voice and when we sing together
A line is drawn; and hope reborn
This is the song, the song of Kingdom Come. (repeat)

We heard the cries / of distant neighbours
The dispossessed / the refugee
And God's command to feed the hungry
And set them free / and set them free
We heard the Word / the New Commandment
And we reclaimed / the prophet's call
To love the world without condition
God's love for all / God's love for all

Chorus

A reckless love / that knows no borders
That speaks the truth / to those in power
That shines a light on cruel indifference
This is God's hour / this is God's hour
When we will stand / against injustice
With all who live / against the grain
Until their poverty is over
And love shall reign / and love shall reign

Chorus

We won't stand by / while sisters suffer
Or turn blind eyes / to ruthless wrong
Our psalm of praise will be compassion
This Kingdom Song / this Kingdom song
A song of love / and liberation
Of healing hope / and lasting peace
A taste of life in all its fullness
God's masterpiece / God's masterpiece.

Chorus (x 2) repeat last line

Scripture Readings

Amos 7: 7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl.

Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Reflection

Hymn For the healing of the nations vv 1 & 2

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.

Prayer

O God, source of all being,
we pray for your church in this place at this time.
Grant that we may be blessed with renewed strength, faith and love.
May we discern your will and so enable your purpose to be shown in all we say and do.
Help us to find new ways to bring your good news of abundant living and wasteful loving to
the communities around us.
Let your spirit of love and peace, hospitality and honesty, community and challenge dwell
among us.
Grant that this place may continue to be a place of love to the loveless, hope to the
hopeless, and celebration and joy to the downhearted and depressed.
May the light of your love, the peace of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
shine out to inform and illuminate our world. **Amen**

Hymn For the healing of the nations vv 3 & 4

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.

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.

A Christian Aid affirmation

We believe that God hopes and works for a world where all shall be included in the feast of life, and that in Christ we see how costly it is to bring that world about.

We believe that God's strategy for a new world is to put the poorest first, and that nothing is more important for God's people than to bring the poor good news.

We believe that rich and poor alike can be generous, wise and creative because all are made in God's image, and that all are made poorer when they are left out.

We confess that we use our strength to protect ourselves and order the world to benefit the rich and not the poor, and that none of us can be trusted with too much power over others.

We believe that loving our neighbours means working for justice, so that all have a say in what happens to them.

We believe that God made the good earth to sustain and delight us, and that we are called to take care of it and enjoy it.

We believe that the God of all the earth is at work beyond the churches as well as within them, making common cause with all who want the poor to be included.

We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference.

Hymn The peace of the earth

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you.

Sending and Blessing

Organ Music Farewell to Stromness (1980)

Peter Maxwell Davies

Worship Leaders: Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland with Judy and Arthur Chapman

Scripture Reader: Bridget Harris

Director of Music: Brigitte Harris

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

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

Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

Sources:

Photo credit: www.christianaid.co.uk

Scripture reading taken from the New Revised Standard Version

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration & Confession from Bread for Tomorrow Edited by Janet Morley, SPCK 1992

Prayer - God, source of all being Written by Arthur and used in The One Tree by William Clinkenbeard, Pilrig Press 2013

The Christian Aid Affirmation - Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications, 2001

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition except The Song of Kingdom Come (Christian Aid video) © 2015 Martin John Nicholls and Paul Field

Hymns used under licence from CCLI 247862

Streaming licence 351013

and ONE LICENSE #A-734408

St Andrew's & St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh. Charity SC008990

www.stagw.org.uk