

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of service 26 September 2021
Cups of water...**



Welcome: Barbara Finlayson

Hymn 485 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee,
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love,
interpreted by love.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!
O still small voice of calm!

Call to worship: Psalm 19, *The Message translation*, read responsively:

East God's glory is on tour in the skies

West God-craft on exhibit across the horizon

**East God's Word vaults across the skies
from sunrise to sunset,**

**West Melting ice, scorching deserts,
warming hearts to faith.**

**East The revelation of God is whole
and pulls our lives together.**

**West The signposts of God are clear
and point out the right road.**

**East The life-maps of God are right,
showing the way to joy**

**West God's Word warns us of danger
and directs us to hidden treasure.**

Opening prayer

Loving God,

You have always gathered your people together, pouring out your spirit on those who strive to be in relationship with you, leading, guiding, responding, from age to age.

Be with us this morning, in our song and in our silence, in the words of each other and the love we have for our friends in this community, be in our peace and our conflict, so that we may always be drawn closer to you and one another.

Inspire us, embolden us, let each of us hear the words you wish us to hear, for the strengthening of the relationship you desire with each one of us, and the work you have for all of us to do in this church and in this city. Show us what it means for us to live fully and freely, trusting in you who wants all good things and blessings for us.

In faith we pray together:

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.

We pray those beautiful words that Jesus taught us as he showed us how to respond to God. We now turn to the Lord and ask for guidance as we reflect on the word, asking for inspiration and clarity, and the grace of open hearts and minds.

Readings *New Revised Standard Version*

Numbers 16 and 24-29

So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!'

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Reflection: Cups of water

Hymn 694 Brother sister let me serve you

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Prayers

We will now share our prayers for the church and the world. Between prayers we will sing the response in the Taizé style:

*O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me*

Loving God,

We pray for the faith community here at St Andrew's and St. George's West. We pray that we will be sustained and comforted in times of uncertainty and discomfort, that we will be deeply and powerfully grounded in our relationship with God and feel profoundly aware of Him supporting and upholding us. Help us to act with courage and integrity in a world so very much in need of your love and care, teach us to be your hands and feet so that we may communicate something of you in our homes, our church, our city and in all the lives we touch.

***O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me***

Heavenly father,

We pray for our beautiful and fragile world. We pray for the protection of diversity and all that is life-giving and life –sustaining. And we pray to be a people who strive to protect and steward our resources with justice and passion. We pray for all those who will lose their lives because of climate change, we pray for all those who are already displaced from their homes. Comfort and console them Lord, and raise up voices all over the world to speak out for them. Fill leaders with your spirit to act with wisdom and compassion, and give each one of us the desire to do all we can to care for your creation.

***O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me***

Lord of mercy,

We pray for all those on the margins. Those we disagree with, those whose way of life makes us uncomfortable, and those we do not understand. We pray for our enemies, and those who harm others, and those we struggle to love. And we pray for all those who have no-one to pray for them. Help us to be a people who strive for peace, and fill us with compassion. Give us wisdom to always search for common ground, and the grace to cherish moments of encounter.

***O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me***

Amen!

Words of thanks and final blessing

May God bless you this week. May you be aware of his closeness, and savour his delight in you. May you be aware of his protection and may you have the courage to trust in his plans for your life. May you find Him where you least expect him, and have the openness and energy carry Him to those who long for Him.

Go in peace, glorifying God with your life, in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy spirit, Amen!

Final Hymn We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that our unity will one day be restored.
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land;
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each other's dignity, and save each other's pride;
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Worship leader: Sally Fraser

Readers: Veronica Crerar and Alastair Mackenzie

Prayers: Diana Thurston-Smith

Musician: Siobhan Gorrie

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