

St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 3 October 2021
The Drama of Job: Act 1



Music

Welcome and call to worship

We come before God,
whether happy or sad,
confident or scared,
strong or weak,
content or anxious —
God is listening.

We come to God,
for no matter our life's experience,
our poise or predicament,
preference or pattern—
God is listening.

In such intimacy,
let us come before God.

We are welcome, just as we are.
We are loved, just as we are.
In gratitude for all of this, we worship God together.

Hymn We lay our broken world
in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war, and fear,
oppressed by power and hate.

Here human life seems less
than profit, might, and pride,
though to unite us all in you,
you lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken towns,
our neighbours hurt and bruised;
you show us how old pain and wounds
for new life can be used.

We bring our broken loves,
friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see
that love must be reborn.

We bring our broken selves,
confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing grace
new purpose is inspired.

Come Spirit, on us breathe,
with life and strength anew;
find in us love, and hope, and trust,
and lift us up to you.

Prayer of adoration, confession & assurance of pardon Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17

Eternal One, whose thoughts and ways are not ours,
you alone are God, awesome, holy, and most high.
Teach us in the ways of faith and wisdom,
that we, like Job,
may learn to truly see and hear,
and in humility find blessing.

Merciful God,
We know that all of us have sinned and fall short of your glory
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

**We have not loved you
with our whole heart and soul
and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy,
forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Hear the good news!
Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

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.**

Psalm 121

I to the hills will lift mine eyes.
From whence doth come mine aid?
My safety cometh from the Lord,
who heaven and earth hath made.

Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will
he slumber that thee keeps.
Behold, he that keeps Israel,
he slumbers not, nor sleeps.

The Lord thee keeps, the Lord thy shade
on thy right hand doth stay:
the moon by night thee shall not smite,
nor yet the sun by day.

The Lord shall keep thy soul; he shall

preserve thee from all ill.
Henceforth thy going out and in
God keep for ever will.

Old Testament Reading Job 1:1,2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil...

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Reflection

Hymn It is well with my soul (vv 1,2,4)

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;

even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

New Testament Reading Philippians 4:4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Prayers of the People

Eternal God, we thank you that you are always with us, though we know we often forget your presence. Open our hearts to know your constant love for us in our world which is ever changing.

As we bring you our prayers for others and for your world, we pray for all who are experiencing change in their lives, people known to us, and those known to you. We pray for children and young people, growing and learning. We pray that the influences in their lives are positive. That they are encouraged by family, friends and teachers to grow in confidence, and are not discouraged by harmful influences on social media. We pray particularly for girls and young women in Afghanistan, who are being denied education and opportunities.

Lord, as we open our hearts to you, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all people for whom daily life has changed – for those who have lost jobs or homes, for broken relationships, for changes in health; and for those taking on new opportunities, new responsibilities, new relationships. And we think especially of those who are grieving the loss of someone dear to them. We ask that all may be aware of your unchanging love.

Lord as we open our hearts to you, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are working for change in how we use or abuse the natural world. We pray for wisdom for campaigners, and open hearts in those who hear them. Help us always to remember that our world and its resources are your creation, and your gift to us.

Lord as we open our hearts to you, **hear our prayer.**

As our world leaders meet in discussion, we pray that they will see their leadership as an opportunity for service, that they have the welfare of people as their

motivation, and not politics or power. We remember in prayer all refugees whose lives have been changed completely by war and the abuse of power, and we ask your blessing on all those working to support them. We pray for restraint in those who use words and rhetoric as weapons, and we pray for all who are working earnestly to bring peace in conflict.

Lord as we open our hearts to you, **hear our prayer.**

And we pray for your church and especially for our congregation. We ask for your inspiration for our leaders, so that they help us all to see your presence with us at all times and your hand guiding all we do. Give us patience we pray to see your vision for us in the community around us, and boldness to turn that vision into action.

Lord as we open our hearts to you, **hear our prayer.**

We offer these prayers, knowing that you are always with us, and offer ourselves to serve wherever you would lead us. In the name of Jesus our Saviour. **Amen**

Hymn

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you for ever ;
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavour.

Lift up your eyes and see his face
and his grace for ever ;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you for ever.

Sending and Benediction

Music

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee and Dorothy MacKenzie

Readers: Donald McCrae and Ruth Sheard

Musician: Drew Crichton

Image: Rosie Magee of 'Taos' painting by Aziza

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Philippa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Susan McLarty,
Mary Margaret Scott

Call to worship: Spill the Beans Issue 40, page 59.

Scripture Readings: The New Revised Standard Version

Hymns from Church Hymnary 4th edition except 'It is well with my soul' by Horatio Spafford, composer Philip Bliss. First published in *Gospel Hymns No. 2* by Ira Sankey and Bliss (1876),

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