

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 7 November 2021**

Walking the Walk



Gathering Music

Sweet Dreams by Tchaikovsky
Sonata in C by Mozart

Welcome

Call to Worship

Believing that God made and loves the world,
we gather.
That it may be restored to fulfil God's purposes,
we pray.
To seek a wisdom deeper than our own,
we listen.
To honour God who gave us a voice,
we worship.

Hymn Take my life Lord, let it be

Take my life, Lord, let it be
consecrated, glad, and free ;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of your love ;
take my feet, that I may run
bearing news of Christ your Son.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King ;
take my intellect and use
every power as you shall choose.

Take my will — your will be done,
may my will and yours be one ;
take my heart — it is your own,
it shall be your royal throne.

Take my love — my Lord, I pour
at your feet its treasure-store ;
take myself, and I will be
all for you, eternally.

Opening prayer

Creating and sustaining God,
today the stones are shouting.
Today the cycles of the seasons,
which tell of your faithfulness,
are disrupted and gagged.

Today, the very skies which tell of your glory,
the glaciers which reflect and protect
are in wounded turmoil
Longing simply to praise you.
And yet...

Prayer of confession

We fight over land that is not ours.
Forgive us our arrogance.

We put a price on resources that are priceless.
Forgive us our greed.

We create divisions and labels that separate and humiliate.
Forgive us our hurtfulness.

Too often we fail to learn from our mistakes and
reconcile our errors.
Forgive us our wrongdoings.

We will remember that the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it

Assurance of pardon

Loving God, we are assured of your forgiveness
when we come to you in humility.
Renew us, send us
as usable instruments,
that we might take seriously
the meaning of your cross.
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.**

Sharing the Peace

Hymn 'Tis The Gift To Be Simple

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

Refrain:

When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and learn to say, (refrain)

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis the gift to think of others not to only think of "me",
And when we hear what others really think and really feel,
Then we'll all live together with a love that is real. (refrain)

Scripture Reading Psalm 127 (Redux)

Unless the Lord builds the house,
from great cathedral to humble home,
all the effort you put into it,
will be all about 'self'.

Unless the Lord guards the city,
the community, the clan,
unless the Lord protects it,
stirs it with love rather than hate,
whoever keeps guard keeps watch in vain.

Don't think you can do this yourself.
You can rise as early as dawn,
and rest as late as dusk,
you can worry over it,
fear for it and love it in equal measure,
but unless the Lord is the compassion
that strengthens our relationships,
the city will be lost.

Children bring the gift of life
to all in a community,
like arrows pointing into the future
they offer promise in every generation.

Happy is the community
that has a generation of hope.
Such hope builds the house,
keeps enemies at the gate,
and the future alive between us all.

Scripture Reading Mark 12:38-44

As he (Jesus) taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Reflection

Hymn God who sets us on a journey

God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago.
journey inward, journey outward stir the spirit, stretch the mind;
love, for God and self and neighbour, marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding, mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings, find it hard to know what's right,
We regain our true direction focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days, grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential, choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort, pull the tent-pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge you are always at our side,
give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Prayers of the people

Symbolic Act of commitment

Dedication of our offerings

Hymn We are walking in the light of God (x2)

We are walking in the light of God,
we are walking in the light of God.
We are walking in the light of God,
we are walking in the light of God.
We are walking,
O-o,
we are walking in the light of God,
we are walking,
O-o,
we are walking in the light of God.

Benediction

Congregational response: Amen

Sending Music

Tanz des Burgermeisters by Praetorius

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, Sally and Nick Evans

Musicians: Selda and David and Dow

Scripture Readers: Colin Douglas and Rosemary Watson

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

Sources:

Photo: by Nick Evans of Pokhara in Nepal

Psalm 127 (Redux) Spill the Beans issue 40 ©2021 Spill the Beans Resource Team

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition except: 'Tis The Gift To Be Simple', lyricist: Joseph Brackett (1797–1882) and others, Public Domain. And 'God who sets us on a journey' words Joy Dine (1937-2001).

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