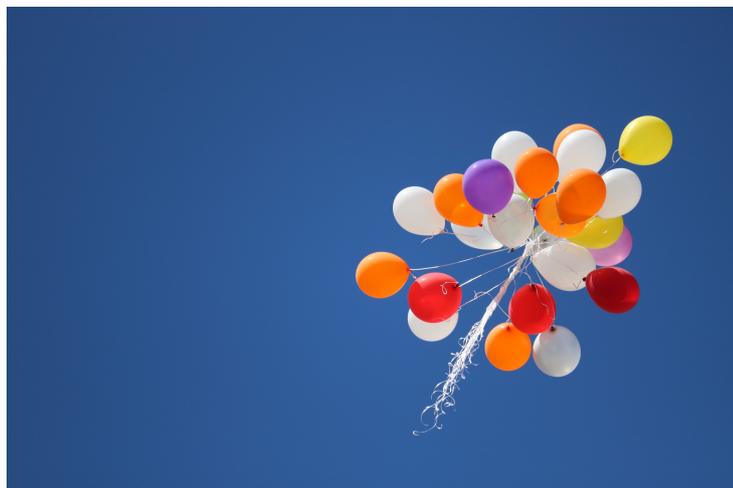


St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service

2 January 2022

NEW YEAR, NEW START



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn 303 **It came upon the midnight clear.** verses 1, 3 – 5

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to you
From heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And warring humankind hears not
The love song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-rolling years
Still dawns the Age of Gold;
When Peace shall over all the earth,
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

Opening prayer and 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.**

Short talk and your reflection

Anthem New Year Carol Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.

*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew

Sharing a sign of Christ's peace

Peace be with you
and also with you.

Hymn 103 Fill your hearts with joy and gladness

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
Might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens
Knows and names them as they shine.

Praise the Lord, His people praise Him!
Wounded souls His comfort know;
Those who fear Him find His mercies,
Peace for pain and joy for woe;
Humble hearts are high exalted,
Human pride and power laid low.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
Spring to melt the snows of winter
Till the waters flow again;
Grass upon the mountain pastures,
Golden valleys thick with grain.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Peace and plenty crown your days;
Love His laws, declare His judgments,
Walk in all His words and ways,
He the Lord and we His children;
Praise the Lord, all people praise!

Scripture readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

John 1:1-18 (Contemporary English Version)
The Word of Life

In the beginning was the one
who is called the Word.
The Word was with God
and was truly God.

From the very beginning
the Word was with God.

And with this Word,
God created all things.
Nothing was made
without the Word.
Everything that was created
received its life from him,
and his life gave light
to everyone.
The light keeps shining
in the dark,
and darkness has never
put it out.
God sent a man named John,
who came to tell
about the light
and to lead all people
to have faith.
John wasn't that light.
He came only to tell
about the light.
The true light that shines
on everyone
was coming into the world.
The Word was in the world,
but no one knew him,
though God had made the world
with his Word.
He came into his own world,
but his own nation
did not welcome him.
Yet some people accepted him
and put their faith in him.
So he gave them the right
to be the children of God.
They were not God's children
by nature
or because
of any human desires.
God himself was the one
who made them his children.
The Word became
a human being
and lived here with us.
We saw his true glory,
the glory of the only Son
of the Father.
From him all the kindness
and all the truth of God
have come down to us.
John spoke about him and shouted, "This is the one I told you would come! He is greater
than I am, because he was alive before I was born."

Because of all that the Son is, we have been given one blessing after another. The Law was given by Moses, but Jesus Christ brought us undeserved kindness and truth. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is truly God and is closest to the Father, has shown us what God is like.

Reflection

Hymn 466 Before the Throne of God above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.

Prayers of the People

Gracious God,
At the start of a new year we bring You our hopes for the world and for its peoples.
We thank you for the life of Desmond Tutu and remind ourselves of his words.

‘Goodness is stronger than evil.
Love is stronger than hate.
Light is stronger than darkness.
Life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours through Him who loved us.’

Grant us peace in place of strife, a desire for justice more than a desire for growth, the building up of forests not their pulling down, the cleansing not the pollution of our seas, and in place of hatred goodwill.

We pray for the Queen, and for all the Parliaments and Councils of these islands in which we live. Grant them wisdom and courage for this year ahead,

We pause now and in a time of silence think of one another here, of our friends and families at home, thinking especially of lands we know and where those we care about live.

Silence

God of vision, we thank you for the Africans who shaped the thinking of an age. Help us to build on the vision of a world of peace and justice.

Hymn 320 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Sending and blessing

Sung Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Sending Music

Worship Leaders: Douglas Reid, Ruth Forrester, Lorna Cammock

Pianists: Mary Godden and Frances Cooper

Soloist: Frances Cooper

Reader: Lorna Cammock

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

Sources:

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Scripture readings: New Revised Standard Version *and* Contemporary English Version

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