

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 7 August 2022**

Festivals of faith



Gathering music

Welcome

Gathering words

(inspired by Luke 6:38; Psalm 126:2; Psalm 122:1)

Creator God,
This is the day that You have made!
This is the day you have called Holy:
Sabbath day, a rest day, a time-out,
out of the world and into the presence of God: a day for rejoicing.

Make us glad this morning in the House of the Lord.
Remove from us our distractions, our heart-worries,
our to-dos and should-haves and all the constant stress & strain.
And in its place, O God, give us more of You.
Here in your House, our hearts are filled with peace
our mouths with laughter,
our tongues with shouts of joy.

Fill us to brimming and overflowing with the joy of the Lord:
A good measure of God, pressed down,
shaken together and running over.
We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed,
to be together in the House of the Lord!

Hymn Christians! Join in celebration

Tune Blauenwern

Christians! Join in celebration
see the hope in every face,
catch a glimpse of new creation
even here in time and space:
children thrive in peace, undaunted,
work receives its fair reward,
homes are built and crops are planted –
can we see this world restored?

People join in celebration
where the truth of God is heard
spoken out in confrontation
with the powers that hold the world,
tearing through the web of lying,
naming debt, disease and war,
through the bravest, prophesying:
'death and pain could be no more!'

Christians! Join the celebration
sweeping far beyond our schemes.
dare to hear God's invitation
in a hundred human dreams.
'Break your chainlinks with corruption,
struggle free from guilt and fear,
join the surge of hope's eruption.
God's great carnival is here!'

People! Join in celebration
fan the flame from place to place,
form a vivid constellation
starring all the human race.
Let God's image blaze unhindered,
glorious in diversity.
If our crazed abuse were ended,
then creation might be free.

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Adoration

We approach you, God of all, knowing that you will grant us peace.
When obstacles stand in our path,
and when life feels chaotic,

you have given us breath to calm us.
When everything is going well, you have given us minds to pause and reflect.
God of all, we pray: grant us peace. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Holy God,
too often we find ourselves stuck in shadows.
The buildings around us seem to hem us in and it is easy to convince ourselves
that there is no way forward.
Or we think that we are balancing in the heights, afraid of falling and convinced
that there is no way down.

Forgive us when we act out of anxiety, rather than faith.
Forgive us when our human reactions of fear close us off from the ways of
peace that you desire for us.
Open our eyes to the shelters which you provide for us and from where we can
appreciate the magnitude of your compassion and mercy.

Words of affirmation

The words and deeds of humans are just for a season, only a part of this great
Creation.
But the grace of God endures forever, filling all that has been, all that is, and all
that is to come. In all our seasons, we are called to prepare for our God, who
forgives all our sins.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and 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.**

The sharing of Christ's peace

God makes peace within us.
Let's claim it.

God makes peace between us.
Let's share it.

Let us offer each a sign of Christ's peace.

The Festival of Booths

- 1 O God, you are my God alone,
whom eagerly I seek,
though longing fills my soul with thirst
and leaves my body weak.
Just as a dry and barren land
awaits a freshening shower,
I long within your house to see
your glory and your power.
- 2 Your faithful love surpasses life,
evoking all my praise.
Through every day, to bless your name,
my hands in joy I'll raise.
My deepest needs you satisfy
as with a sumptuous feast.
So, on my lips and in my heart,
your praise has never ceased.
- 3 Throughout the night I lie in bed
and call you, Lord, to mind;
in darkest hours I meditate
how God, my strength, is kind.
Beneath the shadow of your wing,
I live and feel secure;
and daily as I follow close,
your right hand keeps me sure.

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them

Reflection

Festivals of faith

Hymn 141

O the life of the world

- 1 Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure,
unfolding in beauty the green-growing tree,
the changing of seasons in mountain and valley,
the stars and the bright restless sea.
- 2 Oh, the life of the world is a fountain of goodness
overflowing in labour and passion and pain,
in the sound of the city and the silence of wisdom,
in the birth of a child once again.
- 3 Oh, the life of the world is the source of our healing.
It rises in laughter and wells up in song ;
it springs from the care of the poor and the broken
and refreshes where justice is strong.
- 4 So give thanks for the life and give love to the Maker,
and rejoice in the gift of the bright risen Son,
and walk in the peace and the power of the Spirit
till the days of our living are done.

Dedication of Offerings

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Hymn 530

One more step

- 1 One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go ;
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you :
*And it's from the old I travel to the new ;
keep me travelling along with you.*
- 2 Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn ;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me :
- 3 As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should ;

where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know :

- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough ;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you :
- 5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me ;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you :

Sending

Go onward from this place in peace.

Go onward, knowing your faith is the assurance of things you hope for
and that trust in God is the firm foundation that makes life worth living.
Such trust is our handle on what we can't see.

Press on in faith.

Step onward, into the "everydayness" of your life
desiring to see God in heaven,
not ashamed to be called God's people..

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this day and evermore.

Threefold Amen

Sending music

Worship Leaders: James McNeill, Rev Rosie Magee

Musician: George Barrett

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

Image: Rosie Magee

Opening Prayer adapted from Seasons of the Spirit, 6 December 2020.

Scripture Reading from the New Revised Standard Version

Gathering words posted on Literature & Liturgy.

<http://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/an-opening-prayer/>

Hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition except Christians! Join in celebration by
Janet Wootton from 'Eagles wings and lesser things', Stainer and Bell Ltd. Used with
permission.

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