

**St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC**  
**Order for Worship for 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 at 11.00am**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 23

**Hymn** – R&S 95. God is love: let heaven adore him

1. God is love: let heaven adore him;  
God is love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heavens above,  
he who breathes through all creation,  
he is love, eternal love.
2. God is love, and is enfolding  
all the world in one embrace;  
his unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race;  
and when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
that same sorrow, that same aching  
wrings with pain the heart of God.
3. God is love: and though with blindness  
sin afflicts and clouds the will,  
God's eternal loving kindness  
holds us fast and guides us still.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so Love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874 – 1939)

**Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer**

Almighty and Eternal God, we offer you this special time in worship. We come as we are, with all our joys and all our achievements and with all our disappointments and all our failures.

**We become still in your presence and long to find our true selves in wonder, love and praise.**

May we worship you with our whole selves, our souls, our bodies and our minds, that we might know ourselves loved and cherished and important to your purposes.

**May we be renewed, encouraged and strengthened through this sacred time with you, so that we may offer you all that we are and do in our lives and work, so that we may walk more confidently with you and so that we may look for your presence in the heart of the storm and not fear your absence from it.**

As we come to worship you, Eternal God, we do so aware of the many ways in which we have forgotten you and your claim upon our lives.

When we have ignored your voice within us and chosen to go our own way,  
**please forgive us and renew us.**

When we have been too busy or too preoccupied to spend time with you and so have forgotten your power to help us and to change us,  
**please forgive us and renew us.**

When we have missed valuable opportunities or have chosen to ignore them because we were blind or lazy,  
**please forgive us and renew us.**

When we have hurt others, deliberately or unintentionally, especially those closest to us,  
**please forgive us and renew us.**

Eternal God, we praise you that with you the past never has the last word and that you are always offering us forgiveness and the promise of a new way.

**We claim that promise for ourselves now. May we know ourselves forgiven, loved and free and may we ever strive to walk your way of peace and love.**

We sum up our prayers as we say together the words that Jesus himself taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Reading** – John 10:1-11

**Anthem** – “The Lord’s My Shepherd” by Howard Goodall

**Hymn** – R&S 594. Peace, perfect peace, is the gift

1. Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.  
Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
2. Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.  
Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

3. Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.  
Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Words and Music by Kevin Mayhew

### **Blessing for our Young Friends**

**Almighty and Eternal God, we ask your blessing on all our young friends wherever they are, separated from their friends and anxious about the future. We pray that you will give them hope, inner peace and the profound knowledge that they are loved and cared for. Please keep them safe and wrap your blessing around them. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.**

**Reading** – Acts 2:42-47

**Talk** – A New Kind of Community

**Hymn** – R&S 679. The Lord’s my Shepherd

1. The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want:  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
ev’n for his own name’s sake.
3. Yea, though I walk through death’s dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

4. My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou doest with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

William Whittingham (1524 – 79)

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Almighty and Eternal God, we give you our heartfelt thanks for all the many blessings of this life and for all your goodness and love towards us.

For food to eat and clean water to drink,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For the opportunity for exercise and the enjoyment of spring beauty,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For those who are working so hard to keep us supplied with food and medicines,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For those who are putting their own lives on the line in order to bring help and healing to those in greatest need, for those who work in our hospitals, for those who work in our communities,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For those who are spending long hours in laboratories to find a cure for our current crisis and to find ways of alleviating symptoms,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For those who are bringing help and comfort to the lonely and isolated, for those who are fostering a greater sense of community togetherness,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For our leaders in government, for our scientific and medical officers, for those who have the courage to take decisions that keep us safe,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

**Almighty God, we offer you our thanks and praise for all that you do for us that brings us a sense of being loved and valued. As an expression of our gratitude, we offer to you all that we are and all that we have, praying that you will use all that we offer for the work of your Kingdom, in our homes, in our communities, in our nation and in our world.**

Almighty and Eternal God, whose love and care is close to each one of us, especially in our times of need, we hold before you all who are desperately ill at this time, all in Intensive Care Units, all recovering on the wards, all at home having beaten the virus, but still weak and anxious.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are starting to feel ill and are desperately worried about what awaits them in the days ahead. In the name of Jesus, who brought healing to the sick and hope to the downhearted, we ask for your healing for all in need, for your patience, for your inner peace and for your strength and encouragement.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we pray for all those who have lost loved ones, who are facing the aching reality of deep grief and sorrow and who, at the moment, cannot honour their loved ones in the way they would wish. We pray that you will comfort them with the knowledge that their loved ones are at peace and are in your eternal love and care. We pray that you will bring them new hope and new possibilities and the courage to carry on.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we pray that this current crisis will pass quickly and that a way can be found to beat it once and for all. We pray that you will watch over all our loved ones, wherever they are and that you will keep them safe and well. We pray that we may all be reunited in love and friendship very soon. We offer you our prayers, in the knowledge that it is impossible to pray earnestly and for nothing to happen.

**And to you, Eternal God, be all honour, glory and praise, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Hear the gracious words of our Lord Jesus Christ; Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Anyone who comes to me I will never turn away.

### **The Narrative**

We hear the narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper as it was recorded by the apostle Paul. I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,

he broke it, and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again.

### **The Celebration of the Sacrament**

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and indeed following his very example, we take this bread and this cup and we give thanks to God.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**With joy we give you thanks and praise,  
Almighty God, Source of all life and love,  
that we live in your world,  
that you are always creating and  
sustaining it by your power,  
and that you have so made us  
that we can know and love you,  
trust and serve you.**

**We give you thanks**

**that you loved this world so much**

**that you gave your only Son,**

**so that everyone who has faith in him**

**may not die but have eternal life.**

**We thank you that Jesus was born among us;**

**that he lived our common life on earth;**

**that he suffered and died for us;**

**that he rose again;  
and that he is always present  
through the Holy Spirit.  
We thank you that we can live in the faith  
that your kingdom will come,  
and that in life, in death and beyond death  
you are always with us.**

Therefore with all the company of heaven,  
and with all your people,  
of all places and times,  
we proclaim your greatness.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy Lord God,  
by what we do here in remembrance of Christ  
we celebrate his perfect sacrifice on the Cross  
and his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
we declare that he is Lord of all our living,  
and we prepare for his coming in his kingdom.  
**Accept our sacrifice of praise;  
and as we eat and drink as he commanded us  
unite us to Christ as one body in him,  
and give us strength to serve you in the world.  
And to you, one holy and eternal God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we give praise and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

*We share in the bread and wine*

**Prayer after Communion**

**Most gracious God,  
we praise you for all that you have given us  
and for all that you have promised us here.  
You have made us one  
with all your people, those in heaven and those on earth.  
You have fed us with the bread of life,  
and renewed us for your service.  
So now we give ourselves to you;  
and we ask that our daily living  
may be part of the life of your kingdom,  
and that our love may be your love  
reaching out into the life of this world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn** – R&S 590. In heavenly love abiding

1. In heavenly love abiding,  
no change my heart shall fear;  
and safe is such confiding,  
for nothing changes here:  
the storm may roar without me,  
my heart may low be laid,  
but God is round about me,  
and can I be dismayed?

2. Wherever he may guide me,  
no want shall turn me back;  
my shepherd is beside me,  
and nothing can I lack:  
his wisdom ever waketh,  
his sight is never dim;  
he knows the way he taketh,  
and I will walk with him.
  
3. Green pastures are before me,  
which yet I have not seen;  
bright skies will soon be o'er me,  
where darkening clouds have been:  
my hope I cannot measure,  
my path to life is free;  
my Saviour has my treasure,  
and he will walk with me.

Anna L. Waring (1823 – 1910)

**Benediction** – We say the words of ‘The Grace’ together:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, today and always. Amen.**

The words for the celebration of Holy Communion have been adapted for use from ‘Worship: from the United Reformed Church’.