

**St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC
Order for Worship for 17th May 2020 at 11.00am**

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship – Psalm 145:17-19

Hymn – R&S 663. Love divine, all loves excelling T. Hyfrydol

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

God around us, Spirit of creation, delighting in all that you have made,

we turn to you, we are made by you and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.

God beside us, companion Spirit for our journey through life, who has come to give us life in all its fullness,

we listen for you, we yearn for you, we seek your loving touch.

God within us, Spirit at the heart of all that is,

we are open to you, as you encourage us with the promise of new life.

Living God, please come near to us as we come near to you. Make us confident in prayer, joyful in praise and responsive to your word. So may we know your peace in our hearts and your love in every moment of our living.

Loving God, you have shown us what you require of us; that we treat others fairly and that we are prepared to forgive others as you forgive us. In the knowledge of your acceptance and love, we confess our shortcomings.

When we have been rude to those we love or have lost our temper far too quickly,

Please forgive us and help us.

When we have told lies to protect ourselves or when we have taken pleasure in cheap gossip,

Please forgive us and help us.

When we have been far more concerned about meeting our own needs and so have completely ignored the needs of those around us,

Please forgive us and help us.

When we have played our part in adding to the earth's pollution and in our greed have not been prepared to share the earth's abundant resources with those in dire poverty,

Please forgive us and help us.

Loving God, we pray that you will lift from us all that stops us from loving you and loving each other in the way you intend and that you will renew us and strengthen us for walking the way of Jesus. We offer you all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who when he was on earth taught us to pray together and say:

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 14:15-21

Hymn – R&S 308 & 309. Spirit of the living God

1. Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me! Mould me!
Fill me! Use me!
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
2. Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love;
humble, caring,
selfless, sharing –
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love!

Daniel Iverson (1890 – 1977) & Michael Baughen

(b1930)

Blessing for our Young Friends

Almighty and Eternal God, we ask your blessing on our young friends in this time of separation and anxiety. We pray that you will keep them safe, that you will keep them strong, that you will reassure them that they are loved, cherished and important to your purposes. We pray for those concerned about their exams and not at all sure what the future may hold. Please help them to know that you walk with them into their future and that, whatever happens, you are always with them to guide them and to strengthen them. We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

Reading – Acts 17:22-28

Talk 1 – Coal or Gold?

Hymn – R&S 301. Holy Spirit, truth divine

1. Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.
2. Holy Spirit, love divine,
reign within this heart of mine;
be my law, and I shall be
firmly bound, for ever free.

3. Holy Spirit, power divine,
fill and nerve this will of mine;
by thee may I strongly live,
bravely bear, and nobly strive.
4. Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine;
speak to calm this tossing sea
stayed in thy tranquillity.
5. Holy Spirit, joy divine,
gladden thou this heart of mine;
in the desert ways I sing:
'Spring, O Well, for ever spring!'

Samuel Longfellow (1819 – 92)

Talk 2

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Almighty and Eternal God, for the amazing world you have created in all its beauty and awesome splendour,
we give you our thanks.

For the life you have given us, for families to hold us in love,
for friendships and laughter to encourage us and lift our spirits,
we give you our thanks.

For those who have taught us what it means to live with faith and who have taught us how to pray,
we give you our thanks.

For those who are working long hours in our hospitals and in our communities to bring healing, to keep us safe and to provide us with the essentials for life,
we give you our thanks.

Almighty and Eternal God, every good and wonderful gift comes from you. As an expression of our gratitude, we offer you ourselves, all that we are and all that we have, praying that you will take and use all of our gifts, in whatever way they are given and shared, for the work of your Kingdom, here and across your world.

Eternal God, as we come to the end of our Christian Aid Week, we give thanks for all those who have given so generously, in whatever way they can, to support the work of our Christian Aid partners across the world. We pray that all of our gifts may bring hope, renewal and the real possibility of a full and enjoyable life before death. Please help us to keep our eyes open to the injustices, the unfairness and the poverty around us and in the world. Please help us to change our lifestyles, our habits, and our choices, so that the way we live may not cause harm to others. We ask your blessing on those who will gather virtually after this Service for a shared soup lunch, that their time together may be uplifting and enlivening.

A Prayer based on a Prayer by St Teresa of Avila, which we say together:

Almighty and Eternal God, please grant us your peace, so that nothing may disturb us or frighten us. Help us to know that all things are passing and that you remain the same forever. Please grant us patience, humility and honesty in our inner most selves. Please grant us resilience, no matter what we may be asked to face. Knowing that you are within us and around us, we shall lack nothing. You bring contentment and are sufficient for all our needs. We place our trust in you and we ask for your strength and your guidance.

We offer all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn – R&S 589. How firm a foundation

1. How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word;
what more can he say than to you he has said,
to all who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. ‘Fear not, I am with you, so be not dismayed;
for I am your God and will still give you aid:
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3. 'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you in trouble to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

4. 'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you, my only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.'

5. The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
he will not, he cannot, desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
he never will leave, he will never forsake.

From John Rippon's *Selection of Hymns from the
best authors, 1787*, altd.

Benediction (We say the words of 'The Grace' together)

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