

St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC

Order for Worship for 28th June 2020 at 11.00am

Rev Paulina Hlawiczka

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

I welcome you on the third Sunday after Trinity and the fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

I hope this recording will reach many people from our churches, but also quite a few friends in the ecumenical circle, and people who are on the move and listen, these days, to many different services to find something new and refreshing, and perhaps a new community to join in the future.

Hymn – R&S 625 God of Freedom

- 1 God of freedom, God of justice,
God whose love is strong as death,
God who saw the dark of prison,
God who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.
- 2 Rid the earth of torture's terror,
God whose hands were nailed to wood,
hear the cries of pain and protest,
God who shed the tears and blood:
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.

- 3 Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Shirly Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Written in 1981 for Amnesty International

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Lord's Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, to you be glory and praise for ever.

Our God is gracious and comes to us in mercy. When we wander far from him, he comes to meet us and restores our broken lives. Let us therefore come before him in confidence and declare our sin and guilt, trusting in his strength and grace.

Let us confess together:

I confess to you, Holy God, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, look on me in mercy and forgive my sin.

Hear, O Lord, the private confession of every heart... ..

Absolution

You have prayed for the forgiveness of your sin. I therefore declare, at our Lord's command: Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 – Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer for and with our young people

We welcome everything that comes to us today, because we know it's for our healing. We welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions. God of love and grace, you gave us heart of compassion and empathy. You enabled us to listen, to feel, to act, to help, to support, to make beautiful things, to make the life of those who suffer – brighter and nicer. We ask you to continue fulfilling us with your love and grace, that we long to learn more and new things, and that we understand there is no space for hate and discrimination in our hearts and minds. All people are your creation, all people are equal, regardless of age, colour, ethnicity and sexuality

Help us, O God, in your love. Amen.

Hymn – R&S 647 In Christ There Is No East Or West (to tune St Stephen R&S 128)

1 In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find,
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

3 Join hands, then, all the human race.
whate'er your nation be;
all who my Father's image bear
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christlike souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth

John Oxenham (1852-1941 altd.)

Reading – Jeremiah 28:5-9

Sermon

Hymn – R&S 629 Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:
*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

2 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, bring your joy:
*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace;
for when we give we will ourselves receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
and in dying that we gain eternal life.

Sebastian Temple (1928 - 1997)

Prayers of intercession

Loving and forgiving God, we come to you today recognizing that in matters of ethnicity we have no choice – we are who we have been made to be. Before you we rejoice at our diversity, and our hearts lift at your great vision of a worshipping multitude gathered from every nation, every tribe, people and language. But nonetheless we recognize that our present reality is very far from this ideal.

We have each of us been shaped by different forces; some of us have been ground down, whilst others have been built up. Some of us have been worn away, or have become fractured and broken. Some of us have found life a burden rather than a joy. None of us have experienced the perfect life.

Some of us have been born white, in a world where whiteness confers privilege. Others of us have been born black, in a world where darker skin carries disadvantage.

We know that this is not the world as you would have it be, but it is our world, your creation and it has been our experience.

So before you, and in the name of Jesus Christ who loves all people equally, regardless of ethnicity, gender, social status or sexuality, we come now to recommit ourselves to your vision of the world.

We, your creation, one race, human beings:

We come now to pray ‘your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven’, and to offer ourselves at once to live out your coming kingdom of equality and justice in our lives, in our churches, and in our communities.

We confess our failures to speak out against injustice. We confess those times when, as individuals and as churches, we have witnessed the fracturing of humanity along ethnic grounds, and yet have remained silent. We confess those times when we have been the powerful ones and have chosen to withhold that power whilst another human suffered.

May we create spaces for reconciliation.

Please help us, O Lord.

We pray for our churches. May they become places of reconciliation, where each human soul is valued, and where equality in Christ is a reality in our midst.

Forgive us those times where we do not live out our calling as your people. May our churches model the new humanity of Christ to those in the communities where we live.

We pray for our communities and people we are not able to reach yet. Where there is division, **may we bring restoration.** Where there is inequality **may we bring justice.**

Where there is powerlessness **may we lift up the broken hearted.** Where there is damage **may we bring healing.**

In the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.

Hymn – R&S When Israel Was In Egypt's Land

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,
Let my people go,
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
Let my people go.

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.*

2 No more shall they in bondage toil,
Let my people go,
let them come out with Egypt's spoil,
Let my people go

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.*

3 The Lord told Moses what to do,
Let my people go,
to lead the children of Israel through,
Let my people go.

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.*

4 O come along, Moses, you'll not get lost,
Let my people go,
stretch out your rod and come across,
Let my people go.

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.*

5 When they reached the other shore,
Let my people go,
they sang the song of triumph o'er,
Let my people go.

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.*

6 So let us all from bondage flee,
Let my people go,
and Jesus, he will set us free,
Let my people go.

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.*

Traditional (Afro-American Spiritual)

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace forever. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Peace be with you.

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