

**St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC**  
**Order for Worship for 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 11.00am**

**Welcome and Notices**

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 145:17-19

**Hymn** – R&S 187. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

1. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim:  
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
bring and adore him, the Lord is his name.
2. Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
3. Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou would'st reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
4. These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear:  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

5. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow before him, his glory proclaim:  
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
bring and adore him, the Lord is his name.

J. S. B. Monsell (1811 – 1875)

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

Almighty and Eternal God, we rejoice in the knowledge of your presence with us in this special time in worship. We lay before you all our joys and all our achievements and also all our disappointments and all our failures.

**We quieten our minds and our souls in your presence and long to find our true selves in wonder, love and praise.**

May we worship you now in spirit and in truth, 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.**

Eternal God, as we come to worship, so we also come to ask for your forgiveness and to claim your promise of new life. When we have forgotten you and your power to help us in life's difficulties,

**please forgive us and renew us.**

When we have become frustrated and lost patience because nothing seems to be changing and we are not living as we want to live,

**please forgive us and renew us.**

When we have become unnecessarily angry because someone has hurt us or disappointed us,

**please forgive us and renew us.**

When we have chosen to go our own way, ignoring both your call and the needs of others,

**please forgive us and renew us.**

**Eternal God, help us to know your forgiving love and to immerse ourselves in it, so that we might know ourselves cleansed and freed, healed and renewed. Help us always to know that the past never has the last word and with you the future is still to make.**

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 – Psalm 145:8-14**

**Hymn – R&S 195. I danced in the morning**

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*‘Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the dance,’ said he,  
‘and I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I’ll lead you all in the dance,’ said he.*

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they wouldn’t follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John –  
they came with me and the dance went on.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
the holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black –  
it’s hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I’d gone,  
but I am the dance and I still go on.

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that’ll never, never die;  
I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Sydney Carter (1915 - 2004)

## **Blessing for our Young Friends**

We say together a blessing for our young friends:

**Almighty and Eternal God, we ask your blessing on all our young friends, praying especially for those who are returning to school, those who are frustrated because they are having to stay at home and those who are denied the opportunity of sitting their exams. We pray that you will bring them inner peace, confidence and the profound knowledge that they are loved and cared for. Please keep all our young friends safe and wrap your blessing around them. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.**

**Reading – Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**Talk – The Lord of the Dance**

## **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 good 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 summer sunshine,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For those who are working so hard to make sure that we are supplied with the basic necessities for life,  
**Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.**

For those who are continuing to put 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 ways of alleviating symptoms and researching ways to overcome the threat of the current pandemic with a vaccine,  
**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.**

**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 that keeps us safe. As an expression of our gratitude, we offer to you all that we are and all that we have, asking your blessing on all our giving, in whatever ways we are able to give, 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 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 desperately worried about what the relaxation of the lockdown will bring and who fear a further peak in infections. We pray that you will bring them your confidence, your patience, your inner peace and 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 still 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 face difficult days of grieving.

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

Eternal God, we pray that this covid crisis will pass quickly and that a way can be found to overcome it, so that we can return to normal living. 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**

Jesus said that anyone who wanted to follow him could remember him by eating bread and drinking wine. We gather together now to celebrate Holy Communion in order to remember Jesus, to give thanks for all that he means for our day to day living and to commit ourselves to trying to walk his way more faithfully.

**Hymn** – R&S 373. Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

1. Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
you are one with us,  
Mary's Son –  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in;  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
living Lord.
2. Lord Jesus Christ,  
now and every day  
teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this, in remembrance, lord, of you;  
into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.

3. Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
born as one of us,  
Mary's Son –  
led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free;  
living Lord Jesus, help us see  
you are Lord.

4. Lord Jesus Christ,  
we would come to you,  
live our lives for you,  
Son of God;  
all your commands we know are true,  
your many gifts will make us new;  
into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.

Patrick Appleford (1925 - ) altd.

## The Story

To anyone who wants to follow him, Jesus gave an example and a command, based on the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

**On the night on which he was betrayed and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me."**

**Later, after they had eaten, Jesus took a cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."**

So, now we do as Jesus did. And as he said a prayer of thanks with his friends, so now we give our thanks and praise to God.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we thank and praise you that it is possible for us to know and love you, to trust you and to serve you. You have made our beautiful world and you have made us to enjoy it and to enjoy being with each other.

**Eternal God, we thank you for the example of Jesus. We thank you for the love he shared with all people; we thank you that he showed us the importance of loving you and putting you first in our lives; we thank you that he taught us that we can always say sorry and find a new way of living; we thank you for the care he gave to people in need and for the way he encouraged people who had lost confidence in themselves. We thank you too that he was prepared to suffer and to die in order that his message of love should be shared with the world.**

So now we come to this table to remember Jesus and to ask that we might be strengthened to live as he lived. Help us to be faithful followers of his way, sharing his love with all that we meet. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This bread symbolises for us all that Jesus achieved in his earthly life and ministry. And may the spirit in which he lived be our spirit.

*We eat together*

This cup symbolises for us all that Jesus achieved in his suffering and death upon the cross. And may the spirit in which he died be our spirit.

*We drink together*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Eternal God, we give you our deep thanks for this time together, for these symbols that have reminded us of Jesus and for these people we know and love. We now offer you our day to day living. Help us to go out to live as changed people, to walk in the way of Jesus and to share love and kindness with all. Amen.**

**Hymn – R&S 532. Lord of creation, to you be all praise**

1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!  
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!  
Your glory and greatness no mortal can tell,  
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.
2. Lord of all power, I give you my will,  
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.  
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song;  
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.
3. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,  
rich truth that surpasses my knowledge to find;  
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard  
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.

4. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;  
I praise and adore you for all you impart,  
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,  
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.
5. Lord of all being, I give you my all;  
if e'er I disown you, I stumble and fell;  
but, led in your service your word to obey,  
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Jack Winslow (1882-1974) altd.

### **Benediction: The Blessing of St Columba**

**Be Thou a bright flame before me,  
Be Thou a guiding star above me,  
Be Thou a smooth path below me,  
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today and forever. Amen.**

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