

St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC
Order for Worship for 26th July 2020 at 11.00am

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship – Proverbs 3:3, 5 & 6

“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ... Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Hymn – R&S 96. Great is thy faithfulness

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

T.O.Chisholm (1866-1960)

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, it is good to take special time with you this morning and to know that we do so with the great fellowship of your worldwide Church.

Eternal God, it is good to take special time with you, for we need a place to be quiet and a time to be still.

Eternal God, it is good to take special time with you, for we long to hear your words of life and of healing, of forgiveness and of love.

Great and generous God, we praise you as the source of all goodness, beauty and truth. Humbly and thankfully, we praise you for the changing seasons of the year; that the earth is moving to the pattern of your purposes.

Gracious God, we praise you for the work of creation, for the miracle of life in all its infinite variety and for your continuing goodness and grace towards us. We praise you too for your promise to forgive and to make all things new.

For, 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 selfish way, please forgive us.

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

When we have missed opportunities or have chosen to ignore them because we were foolish or lazy, please forgive us.

When we have hurt others, deliberately or unintentionally, please forgive 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 prayer 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 – Romans 8:26-35, 37-39

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

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)

Blessing for our Young Friends

Almighty and Eternal God, we ask your blessing on our young friends and their families. Whether at home, at school or out in the community, we pray that you will keep them safe and secure and that they might know that you are with them in all situations. In their play and in their work, day by day may they see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly. We offer our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

Reading – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Talk 1 – A New Treasure

Hymn – R&S 518. Father, I place into your hands

1. Father, I place into your hands
the things that I can't do.
Father, I place into your hands
the times that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.
2. Father, I place into your hands
my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.

3. Father, we love to see your face,
we love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise,
and in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
and in your presence rest,
for we know we always can trust you.

Jenny Hewer (1975 -)

Talk 2

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Almighty and Eternal God, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that makes our lives joyful and fulfilled. We have so many blessings and in the knocks and difficulties of life we sometimes forget them. So, now we say 'Thank You'. We thank you for our life, for being made in your image and for all the possibilities and potentials that you have given to us. We thank you for your beautiful creation around us, for air to breathe, for nourishing food and clean water, for the exhilaration of feeling the sun on our faces and knowing our bodies tired from meaningful activity. We thank you for good work, work that helps us to recognize that we are co-creators with you, work that fulfils, work that energises and renews, work that brings us closer to you. And we thank you for those closest to us, for love and intimacy, for friendship and support, for secret history and shared celebration.

For all the greatest blessings of this life, we thank and praise you, eternal God.

Eternal God, as an expression of our thanks we offer to you all that we are and all that we have. We ask your blessing on all our gifts, in whatever way we are able to share them, praying that you will use our gifts for the building of your Kingdom of love, in our homes, in our communities, in our nation and in our world.

Gracious God, you have promised to all who love you peace which passes all understanding.

Help us, we pray, not to hanker after that which is unable ultimately to satisfy. Help us not to worry over problems that we cannot change. Teach us to be still and to know that you are our God.

We pray that in this time of reflection and worship we might be encouraged by your guidance and strengthened through discerning and seeking to do your will.

Teach us to be still and to know that you are our God.

Gracious God, help us not to forget in all situations the one thing that really matters, the knowledge of your love for us. Help us to live each day and each moment with that glorious truth burning in our hearts and in our souls; so may we know your peace and your contentment.

Teach us to be still and to know that you are our God.

Eternal God, we offer to you all our prayers, those spoken and the unspoken prayers of our hearts, knowing that it is impossible to pray honestly and for nothing to happen. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn – R&S 345. Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
 bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore.
2. Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
 strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs of praises,
 I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-91)

Benediction

We share together the words of 'The Grace':

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 for evermore. Amen.

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