

St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC
Order for Worship for 2nd August 2020 at 11.00am

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship – Psalm 46:10 & 11

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.’

Hymn – R&S 104. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! praise him! Praise him! praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!
2. Praise him for his grace and favour
To his people in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him! praise him! Praise him! praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Father-like he tends and spares us:
Well our feeble frame he knows:
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! praise him! Praise him! praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows!
4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
Blows the wind and it is gone,
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! praise him! Praise him! praise him!
Praise the high Eternal One!
5. Angels help us to adore him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him! praise him! Praise him! praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

H F Lyte (1793-1847)

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

God our Father, we have sinned against you and against one another, in thought, word and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. But you have kept faith with us. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and restore us to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In repentance and in faith, receive the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon. Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.' To all who turn to him, he says: "Your sins are forgiven." He also says: "Follow me."

Thanks be to God.

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 4

Anthem – 'One small step' by Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse

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.*

3. 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)

Blessing for our Young Friends

Reading – Matthew 14:13-24

Talk – Commune with your own hearts

Hymn – R&S 64. I lift my eyes to the quiet hills

1. I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
in the press of a busy;
as green hills stand in a dusty land
so God is my strength and stay.
2. I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
to a calm that is mine to share;
secure and still in the Father's will
and kept by the Father's care.
3. I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
with a prayer as I turn to sleep;
by day, by night, through the dark and light
my Shepherd will guard his sheep.
4. I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
and my heart to the Father's throne;
in all my ways to the end of days
the Lord will preserve his own.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926 -)

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 summer sunshine,

Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.

For the opportunity to be on holiday and to find rest and renewal,

Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.

For those who are continuing to put their own lives at risk 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 or a vaccine for our current crisis,

Eternal God, please receive our thanks and praise.

For those who are continuing to bring help and comfort to the lonely and isolated, for those who are working hard to foster 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 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 and all at home recovering. We pray for those who are anxiously awaiting an operation or treatment, who are in pain or discomfort.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those places in our world battling the current pandemic. We pray for those places who had hoped that the virus had gone, but who are now experiencing another rise in infections. 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 are deeply worried about the future. We hold before you all those who have been made redundant, all those who cannot afford to meet their regular bills, all those who are making huge sacrifices in order to put food on the table for their children. We pray for those for whom anxiety is overwhelming and who feel that they can no longer cope. We pray that you will bring them light in their darkness and new hope for their future, that they may find new reserves of 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. 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 be over soon 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

As we celebrate Holy Communion, Jesus is host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him; those who want to follow him must first be fed by him; those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean. For this is the time where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new.

The Story

To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and a command, rooted in 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 gave thanks, so now we give our thanks and praise to God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we thank and praise you that you have so made us that we can know and love you, trust and serve you. Before us, you made the world we inhabit and before the world, you made the eternal home in which we have a place. All that is spectacular,

all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfilment.

We praise you for the example of Jesus. For his life which informs our living; for his compassion which changes our hearts; for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities; for his disturbing presence; for his innocent suffering and his fearless dying; for his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we thank and praise you.

Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven: 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.

Setting our wisdom, our will and our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting and the forgiving that you alone can offer. May your Spirit rest upon us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share. **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. May the spirit in which he lived be our spirit.

This cup symbolises for us all that Jesus achieved in his suffering and dying on the cross. May the spirit in which he died be our spirit.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this sharing, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people, because we have shared in the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us; expect much from us; enable much by us and encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and as citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. 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: 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.**

Opening Prayer taken from 'Rejoice and Sing' No's 2, 3 and 4; adapted for use.

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