

St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC
Order for Worship for Sunday 5th January 2025 at 11.00am

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship – 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."' (Minnie Louise Haskins)

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

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Reading – Genesis 12:1-4

Family Talk

Anthem

Hymn – R&S 549. One more step along the world I go

Blessing for the Offertory and for the Junior Church
(Junior Church leave)

Reading – Mark 2:18-22

Talk – New wineskins for new wine

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

Act of Covenant

We are no longer our own, but yours.
Put us to what you will, rank us with whom you will;
put us to doing, put us to suffering;
let us be employed for you or laid aside for you,

exalted for you or brought low for you;
let us be full, let us be empty,
let us have all things, let us have nothing;
We freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure
and disposal.

And now, Glorious and Blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are ours and we are yours. So be it.
May this covenant, now made on earth, be ratified in heaven
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Jesus so often met people gathered around the table, where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories and share in their laughter. We are gathered around this table because this is where Jesus has promised to be for those who want to meet him. We accept his invitation and we feel welcomed at this table. Jesus invites us to be his guests.

Hymn - R&S 217. When I survey the wondrous Cross

The Narrative

What we do here, we do because Jesus wanted us to do this, in order to remember him. He was once, in an upstairs room, sitting at a meal with his disciples.

During the meal, he took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it, and said to his disciples, "This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me.

Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine. After he had given thanks, he said, "In this cup is the new relationship with God

made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me.”

So, now, we will do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and the work of human hands, through which we are renewed, spiritually nourished and strengthened for service. As Jesus said a prayer before sharing, so we follow his example.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, it is right to praise you, for you are the One from whom we came and the One to whom we will return. You conceived the universe, wove the world together and hold all life in your hands.

We praise you that you watch over us, waking or sleeping, that you keep every tear we shed, that you hear every prayer we make and that you know both our best and our worst and yet you will not let us go.

So, with rain, with wind and with sunshine, with all that moves in time with you, our Maker, we sing your praises.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

Blessed is he who was born among us incognito; who grew up without privilege or status; who walked the way to heaven through the backstreets of this world; who told the deepest truths in ordinary language; who touched and healed, blessed and disturbed without fear or favour; who showed inclusive love in all its unconditional glory. Blessed is he who, for all this, was crucified, died and was buried; who, for all this and all of us, rose again; who is always with us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God beyond holiness, as we do what once Jesus did, may your Spirit move among us, stirring our souls, so that you may be in us and we may be in you, now and forever. Amen.

The Sharing of Communion

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer after Communion

Most Gracious God, we praise you for all that you have given us and for all that you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people, those in heaven and those on earth. You have nourished us with new life and you have renewed us for your service. So, now, we give ourselves to you, and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your Kingdom, and that our love may be your love, reaching out into the life of this world. Through, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn – God, who sets us on a journey T. R&S 663

1. God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour,
marks the way that Christ defined.
2. Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.
3. End our longings for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.

4. When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Joy Dine

*"God Who Sets Us On A Journey" words by Joy Dine
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Benediction (Sung Amen)

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CCL 114191

We give a very warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, either in the sanctuary or on-line. If you are sitting next to a microphone, it is in use.

This Service will be live-streamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending you agree to be seen in this way. If you have any concerns, please speak with our Church Secretary.

If you are visiting for the first time, please do fill out a visitor's card, which can be found in the vestibule. We would be very pleased to stay in touch with you.

Play-bags are available for our youngest friends in the vestibule. These may be used, under parental supervision, until our younger friends leave for Junior Church.

We extend a very warm invitation to you all to join us after the Service for coffee and friendship in our Fellowship Room downstairs. Please leave the sanctuary by the door on the right at the front and turn downstairs. There is a lift, if you require one. When using the lift, please keep your finger on the button until you have arrived at your destination.

If you would like to make a donation to support our Church's life and witness, donations may be made by cash in the offertory bags hanging on the end of the pews at the back of church or, at the end of the Service, on the large offertory plate by the door leading to coffee. Donations may also be made through the card reader on the shelf by the right hand door at the back of Church.

*More information on our Church's life and witness may be found at
www.standrewswithcastlegate.org.uk.
www.facebook.com/StAndrewsWithCastleGate
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