

St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC
6th April 2025 at 11.00am

**Celebration Service for the 50th Anniversary of the formation of
St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC**

**We give a very warm welcome to Rev'd Dr John Bradbury, the
General Secretary of the URC**

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship – Philippians 4:4-7

“Rejoice in the Lord, always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Hymn – R&S 603. Lord, for the years, your love has kept

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Reading – Isaiah 43:16-21

Family Talk – Rev'd Dr John Bradbury

Anthem

Hymn – CH4 526. This is a day of new beginnings T. R&S 584

1. This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.
2. For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference
as faith and hope are born again.
3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings –
our God is making all things new.

*Brian Wren (b. 1936). Words: © 1983, 1987, Stainer and Bell Ltd, PO Box 110,
Victoria House, 23 Gruneisen Road, London, N3 1DZ. CCLI: 114191*

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

Reading – John 12:1-8

Sermon – Rev'd Dr John Bradbury

Hymn – R&S 559. Christ is made the sure foundation OMIT v1

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn – R&S 437. Reap me the earth as a harvest to God T. (i)

Invitation to Communion

Jesus was often a guest. He shared many meals with his friends, and they long remembered his words at the table.

Though some disapproved of the company he kept, Jesus ate and drank with all kinds of people and showed everyone the love of God. Wherever people met together, Jesus was glad to be welcomed and to be fed.

Today, we are the guests of Jesus. He welcomes us, whoever we are and whatever we bring, and he will feed us at his table.

Old or young, rich or poor, joyful or in sorrow, Jesus invites us to share bread and wine with him, to remember the story of his life and death, and to celebrate his presence with us today.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

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 our thanks and praise!

We offer you thanks, Creator, Saviour, Giver of Life.

From the beginning you have made yourself known:

the heavens proclaim your glory and the earth sings your praise.

In wisdom you made all that is and you bless us with earth's fruitfulness. You are merciful and gracious, and abounding in love.

Yet from our first days we have disobeyed your will. Long ago you called to yourself a people to shine as light to guide all nations to your presence. You led them to freedom; you revealed to them your Law and taught them through your prophets. Finally you sent your promised Son, Jesus Christ, who shared our human nature and understood our weakness. Born of Mary, he showed forth your love by word and sign.

... therefore, with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

**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.**

He sought the unloved and the lost and welcomed all who came to him: he taught us lessons of forgiveness; he brought us healing for our sickness, and showed us how to live according to your will.

For this he was rejected, for this he endured grief and sorrow, for this he gave himself up to death upon the cross. But you

broke the power of sin and death and raised him to the heights, that through the blood of his Cross and by the gift of the Holy Spirit, everything in earth and heaven might be reconciled to you.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Come, Creator God: renew the face of the earth; come, eternal Saviour: remake us in your likeness; come, Holy Spirit, transform these gifts: that Christ may be known to us in the breaking of the bread and that we may be strengthened to serve him in the world. May we on earth be one with all Christ's people, and, when all things are complete, be raised up to be with him, and with all your faithful servants in the heavenly places, the homeland which we seek by faith, and where he reigns in glory, with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

The Breaking of Bread

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:

'This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me'.

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

God of a love stronger than death, you have given us new birth into a living hope through the gift of your Son.

God with us, like a mother you have fed us with yourself and strengthened us for journeying ahead.

God of truth and power, you take our weakness and our sin and refashion us by grace.

Gracious God, may the love which bids us welcome at this table gather all your children into one, in your eternal presence, whole and free at last. Amen.

Hymn – R&S 530. Living God, your joyful Spirit

Benediction (Sung Amen)

You are warmly invited to join us for a celebration lunch in the Large Hall.

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 a celebration lunch in the Large Hall. Please leave the sanctuary by the door on the right at the front and turn left upstairs. 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
www.instagram.com/StAndrewsWithCastleGate*

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