

ORDER OF SERVICE: ST ANDREWS

15 October 2023

Welcome

Call to Worship

Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not grow weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Opening Sentences

One: We come to re-weave the unravelling fabric of community
to re-connect once more with the larger human family

**All To find once more that place of calm.
To remind ourselves that we belong,
and to remember what it is we belong to.**

One: We come to centre ourselves,

**All: to open ourselves,
to remember ourselves.
And to celebrate the life we share together.**

Hymn TiS 156: *Morning has broken*

1

Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing,
praise for the morning,
praise for them, springing
fresh from the word.

2
 Sweet the rain's new fall
 sunlit from heaven,
 like the first dewfall
 on the first grass.
 Praise for the sweetness
 of the wet garden,
 sprung from completeness
 where his feet pass.

3
 Mine is the sunlight;
 mine is the morning
 born of the one light
 Eden saw play.
 Praise with elation,
 praise every morning,
 God's recreation
 of the new day.

Prayer

Reading Philippians ch 4, verses 8 and 9
 Fill your minds with those things that are good ...

Carol's Story

Hymn TiS 164: The great love of God

1
 The great love of God
 is revealed in the Son,
 who came to this earth
 to redeem every one.

3
 It binds the whole world,
 every barrier it breaks,
 the hills it lays low,
 and the mountains it shakes.

2
 That love, like a stream
 flowing clear to the sea,
 makes clean every heart
 that from sin would be free.

4
 It's yours, it is ours,
 O how lavishly giv'n!
 the pearl of great price,
 and the treasure of heav'n.

Bible Reading Matthew ch 22, verses 1 – 14
 The parable of the Wedding Feast

Reader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

Reflection The good, the bad — and something more

Hymn TiS 474: *Here in this place new light is streaming ...*

Gather us in

1

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of your name.

2

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3

Here we will take of the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us for ever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Dedication of the offering

News of the church

Prayers of intercession

Hymn TiS 608 Where cross the crowded ways of life

1
Where cross the crowded ways of
life,
where sound the cries of race and
clan,
above the noise of selfish strife
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

2
In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with
fears,
from paths where hide the lures of
greed
we catch the vision of your tears.

3
From tender childhood's helplessness,
from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's
stress
your heart has never known recoil.

4
The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your
grace;
yet long these multitudes to see
the sweet compassion of your face.

5
O Master, from the mountain side
make haste to heal these hearts of
pain;
among these restless throngs
abide,
and tread the city's streets again:

6
till all the world shall learn your
love
and follow where your feet have
trod,
till glorious from your heaven
above
shall come the city of our God.

Benediction

[You are invited to light a candle as you leave the sanctuary]

PREACHER FOR NEXT WEEK: Rev Graham Sturdy