

# **ORDER OF SERVICE: ST ANDREWS**

## **16 July 2023**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Loving God: as the earth welcomes seeds, we welcome you into this place of worship.

***By your spirit and in our moments of silence, by day and by night, faith grows in us.***

And so, you make us, women and men growing together in your love.

***We offer you today all our praise and worship.....***

**SONG:            TIS 106   Now thank we all our God**

1

Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom the world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

2

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us.  
Lord, keep us in your grace  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm  
in this world and the next.

3

All praise and thanks to God  
 who reigns in highest heaven,  
 to Father and to Son  
 and Spirit now be given:  
 the one eternal God,  
 whom heaven and earth adore,

## **PRAYERS OF PRAISE**

**SHARING** a sower went out to sow

**SONG:**            **SinS 390    Open our eyes Lord**

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus  
 To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him  
 Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen  
 Open our eyes, Lord...we want to see Jesus.    X2

**BIBLE READINGS:**    Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23 [Judy]

## **REFLECTION**

**SONG:**            [to tune TIS 168]    **A sower went out to sow**

“Once a farmer went out sowing”,  
 Jesus began  
 “Soon the tender plants were growing  
 There on her land.  
 Every day she laboured, tending,  
 Weeding, working, hope unbending.  
 So her care was never ending  
 For what she’d planned...”

God of love: when she was sleeping.  
 Her harvest grew.  
 Even with her faithful keeping,  
 Life came from you.  
 You awakened seeds she'd sown there;  
 You gave strength to what was grown there.  
 She was never all alone there;  
 She looked to you.

In our joyful celebration,  
 God, this is true.  
 You sustain this congregation:  
 Life comes from you.  
 In the times we pray and gather,  
 When we risk for things that matter,  
 As we love and serve our neighbour  
 We trust in you.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette....UWP.

## **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive  
 those who sin against us.  
 Save us in the trial, and deliver us from evil.  
 For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
 For ever and ever. Amen.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING**

**SONG:** [to tune TIS 457] **Christ taught us of a farmer.....**

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.  
 A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.  
 But others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.  
 O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.

You sowed your word of love here, so many years ago  
 Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.  
 By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.  
 The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow too.

We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways,  
 For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.  
 For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.  
 The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.

In times of joy we praise you; in struggling times we search,  
 And always we are learning to be your faithful church.  
 Your Spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.  
 Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work with you.

Carolyn W.Gillette...UWP.

**BLESSING:**

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

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**PREACHER FOR NEXT WEEK: Rev Graham Sturdy**