

ORDER OF SERVICE: ST ANDREWS

24 September 2023



Come!

Come and worship,

you who woke early, and you who slept late.

you who come often, and you who don't.

Whether we are first or last or somewhere in between,

there is room for all of us in God's kingdom,

and more than enough grace to go around.

Let's worship God together!

TiS 168

For the fruits of his creation

1

For the fruits of all creation,

thanks be to God;

for his gifts to every nation,

thanks be to God;

for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safe keeping,

thanks be to God.

2

In the just reward of labour,

God's will is done;

in the help we give our neighbour

God's will is done;

in our worldwide task of caring

for the hungry and despairing,

in the harvests we are sharing,

God's will is done.

3

For the harvests of the Spirit,
 thanks be to God;
 for the good we all inherit,
 thanks be to God;
 for the wonders that astound us,
 for the truths that still confound us,
 most of all, that love has found us,
 thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Introduction to the Reading

BIBLE READING: Matthew 20:1-16

TiS 136

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy;
 like the wideness of the sea,
 there's a kindness in his justice
 which is more than liberty.

2 There is grace enough for thou-
 sands
 of new worlds as great as this;
 there is room for fresh creations
 in that upper home of bliss.

3 For the love of God is broader
 than the measure of the mind;
 and the heart of the Eternal
 is most wonderfully kind.

4 But we make his love too nar-
 row
 by false limits of our own;
 and we magnify his strictness
 with a zeal he will not own.

5 If our love were but more simple
 we should take him at his word;
 and our lives would be illumined
 by the presence of our Lord.

REFLECTION

TiS 650 Brother, sister let me serve you.

1
Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2
We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3
I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4
I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

5
When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6
Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

**God of the last, God of the first,
God of all those in between,
hear these concerns
as we seek your presence in our lives
and in a world in need. Amen**

***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 time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,***

the power and the glory

For ever and ever.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

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,
who ever was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

Sending out Prayer:

Go out from here,
as workers in God's upside-down kingdom,
where the last are first and the first are last,
where needs are met in miraculous ways,
and there is grace enough for all!
And may the blessing of God,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
surround you and sustain you in the coming days.

Amen.

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

PREACHER FOR NEXT WEEK: Rev Carol Chambers