



South & East Leicestershire Area Covenant Service

At

Wigston Magna URC
4pm Sunday 23rd January 2022

Order of Service

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn **O WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS,**
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for you,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
showing the pathway your feet should pursue.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth you would count as your own;
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell Words: (c) English Hymnal 1906 Oxford University Press

Prayers of Approach/Confession and Lord's Prayer

Hymn **LORD, YOU HAVE COME TO THE SEASHORE,**
neither searching for the rich nor the wise,
desiring only that I should follow.

*O, Lord, with your eyes set upon me,
gently smiling, you have spoken my name;
all I longed for I have found by the water,
at your side, I will seek other shores.*

Lord, see my goods, my possessions;
in my boat you find no power, no wealth.
Will you accept, then, my nets and labour?

O, Lord, with your eyes set upon me...

Lord, take my hands, and direct them.
Help me spend myself in seeking the lost,
returning love for the love you gave me.

O, Lord, with your eyes set upon me...

Lord, as I drift on the waters,
be the resting place of my restless heart,
my life's companion, my friend and refuge.

O, Lord, with your eyes set upon me...

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Reading: Old Testament

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

“Ezra’s reading of God’s Law to the people”

Fit Me In Somewhere by Gerard Kelly

Fit me in somewhere
in this giant jigsaw, God
somewhere in this work of art
you're working,
select a space my shape can fill
and with a puzzle maker's skill
let my contours find their fit without contortion.

Teach me which patch I am God,
in the cosmic quilt you're quilting.
Show me where my square of selfhood is of use.
Let the colourful complexities
of the pattern that is me
find their purpose in the placement that you choose.

Show me my position, God,
in this group photograph.
Stand me where you want me to stand.
Put me next to whom you will.
Make me stand, for good or ill,
precisely in the place your plan demands.

Tell me what I am, God,
in this body you are building:
a tongue to taste,
a nerve to serve,
an ear to hear.

Give me grace
to not be, gracefully,
the parts I am not called to be
and to play with elegance
the rôles I'm given.

Fit me in somewhere
in this giant jigsaw, God,
somewhere in this work of art you're working.
Weave your wondrous tapestry
until the twisted, tangled threads of me,
surrendered to your artistry,
form an image that is beautiful to see.

Reading: Gospel

Luke 5: 1-11

“Jesus calls of the first disciples”

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn **ALL I ONCE HELD DEAR, BUILT MY LIFE UPON**
all this world reveres, and wants to own,
all I once thought gain I have counted loss;
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best,
you're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,
To be found in you and known as yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
all-surpassing gift of righteousness.

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best,
you're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.*

Oh to know the power of your risen life,
and to know you in your sufferings.
To become like you in your death, my Lord,
so with you to live and never die.

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best,
you're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.*

*love You, Lord
love You, Lord*

Covenant Renewal:

Introduction:

THE COVENANT

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim upon us.

Covenant Promise: *Please stand if you are able....*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
let us again accept our place as South and East Leicestershire Area within this covenant which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ's disciples.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit,
we accept God's purpose for us,
and the call to love and serve God
in all our life and work.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Let us be your servant, under your command.

We will no longer be our own.

We will give up ourselves to your will in all things.

Christ has many services to be done:
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring reproach;
some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests,
others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore, let us make this covenant of God our own.
Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises
and relying on his grace.

Lord, make us what you will.

We put ourselves fully into your hands:

put us to doing, put us to suffering,

let us be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

let us be full, let us be empty,

let us have all things, let us have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart

give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Eternal God,

in your faithful and enduring love

you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.

In obedience we hear and accept your commands;

in love we seek to do your perfect will;

with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.

We are no longer our own but yours.

Covenant Prayer:

We are no longer our own but yours.

Your will, not ours, be done in all

things, wherever you may place us,

in all that we do and in all that we may

endure; when there is work for us

and when there is none; when we are

troubled and when we are at peace.

Your will be done when we are valued

and when we are disregarded; when we

find fulfilment and when it is lacking;

when we have all things, and when we have

nothing. We willingly offer all we have and are

ready to serve you, as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are ours and we are yours.

May it be so for ever.

Let this covenant now made on Earth

be fulfilled in Heaven. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn **Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?**

Are you still prepared to follow?

Have you made a choice to remain and serve,
though the way be rough and narrow?

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much
and embrace the pain and sorrow?*

*Will you trust in One who entrusts to you
the disciples of tomorrow?*

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down
when the multitudes are silent?

Will you make a choice to stand your ground
when the crowds are turning violent?

Will you walk the path that will cost you much...

In your city streets will you be God's heart?

Will you listen to the voiceless?

Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,
will you share your faith with the faithless?

Will you walk the path that will cost you much...

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith
and believe it could be different?

Will you share your views using words of grace?

Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

*We will walk the path that will cost us much
and embrace God's love and sorrow.*

*Will you trust in One who entrusts to us
the disciples of tomorrow.*

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Blessing

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