

Lawrence Lane

Final Circuit Service
26th February 2023



Centering Song StF20 - Mary

1. Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here.
Come, bow before Him now
With reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
We stand on holy ground.
Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour He is crowned,
How awesome is the sight,
Our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place,
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
In faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

Time of Silence

Call to Worship

Eternal God, in whose creative glory we see in the rushing wind and the swirling waters,
**and whose love is revealed in the smile of a child,
will remain with us.**

Revealing God, whom we have discovered in the scriptures, and who has discovered us,

**and who comes close to us in Jesus and in the lives of the saints,
will remain with us.**

Living God, whom we encounter in the worship and service of faith communities and our neighbour ,

**whose Spirit is within the pastoral-caring and the justice-seeking of this church,
will remain with us.**

will remain with us.

Loving God, gracefully known in the hard places of our earthly life's journey,

**and who laughs and celebrates joyfully with us here,
will remain with us.**

Saving God, who will be with us as this life ends,

**who is with us in time and beyond time,
will remain with us.**

Let us worship God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Voices of Comfort

STF690 - Betty

1. The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word;
From heaven
 he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

2. Called out from every nation,
Yet one through all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
And shares one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.

3. In toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
At last the Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

4. Yet she on earth has union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
With them, the meek and lowly,
In heaven your face shall see.

Thanksgiving

Response: Loving God – We give you thanks.

In Loving Kindness Jesus Came (Freda and Sister Betty)

1. In loving-kindness Jesus came
My soul in mercy to reclaim,
And from the depths
of sin and shame
Through grace He lifted me.

*From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hand He lifted me,
From shades of night
to plains of light,
Oh, praise His name, He lifted me!*

2. He called me long before I heard,
Before my sinful heart was stirred,
But when I took Him at His word,
Forgiv'n, He lifted me.

3. His brow was pierced
with many a thorn,
His hands by cruel nails were torn,
When from my guilt
and grief, forlorn,
In love He lifted me.

4. Now on a higher plane I dwell,
And with my soul I know 'tis well;
Yet how or why, I cannot tell,
He should have lifted me.

Thanksgiving – continued

STF51 - Jean

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with thee
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Prayer of Approach

Eternal God,
 God of the present time,
 of ages past and of all the ages that are to be,
we worship you.
 Loving God,
 God of the compassionate act and of selfless caring,
we welcome you.

God of the church,
 who brings us together to worship, to learn, and to serve,
we respond to you.

God, whose will is revealed in Jesus Christ,
who proclaimed the just and sharing way,
who accepted the unaccepted,
and whose unswerving love took him to the cross,
we glorify you. Amen.

A Time of Remembering

- Sister Betty: The beginning of Lawrence Lane
- Mary: Church fellowship
- A time of sharing of memories

A Prayer to Give Thanks for these Memories

STF 470 - Christine

1. Lord, for the years
Your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us,
Cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us,
Pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years,
We bring our thanks today.

2. Lord, for that Word,
The Word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts
And sets our souls ablaze.
Teaches and trains,
Rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the Word,
Receive Your people's praise.

3. Lord, for our land,
In this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by
Pleasure, wealth and care;
For young and old,
For commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
Be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world,
When we disown and doubt Him,
Loveless in strength
And comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless,
Lost indeed without Him,
Lord of the world,
We pray that Christ may reign.

5. Lord, for ourselves;
In living power remake us,
Self on the cross
And Christ upon the throne.
Past put behind us,
For the future take us,
Lord of our lives,
To live for Christ alone.

Letting Go

If there is anger that you have expressed around the closing of this church, that you have held tight within yourself.

May we let our anger go and accept Christ's way of renewal and peace.

If there is inaction that has held you back,
If there is apathy that has bound you in the closing of this church.

May we let our apathy and inaction go, may we be ready to work with new Christian friends in a new situation.

If there is a sense of “What might have been,” that you have clung to and a reluctance to face the realities of the faith community.

May we let the old possibilities go and may we be ready to grasp fresh possibilities as members of another faith community.

If there is a clinging to familiar patterns of worship, a clinging to familiar ways of serving in the community.

May we let our patterns go and may we be ready to serve with new friends in new ways.

Silent reflection - offering God the emotions, and attitudes that you wish to let go. We trust God will accept them and deal gracefully with them.

For all the feelings of regret, anger or upset that have burned in us.

May the cooling Spirit of God’s peace be among us now. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God hears our deepest feelings of heart and mind and spirit and has heard you this afternoon.

We will continue to offer these feelings as we let go of this space and this faith community. God will continue to listen to us.

God will go with you in your new ventures of life and faith, God is eternally to be trusted. God’s peace, which passes all knowledge and understanding, will be your peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Bible Reading

Anthem Psalm 23 – Voices in Harmony

Reflection

STF 636 - Mary

1. O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

2. O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee:
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

3. O joy that seekest
me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow
through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

4. O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee:
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground
there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Holy Communion is shared

The Church Closure is Announced

A Prayer of Moving on in Faith

When the chosen people left the land of Egypt for the uncertainty of the wilderness,

You, O God, went with them. You inspired and directed Moses and the people to the Promised Land. You will be with us now as we move on.

When the prophets knew for certain that the old values and traditions would no longer serve your purpose, nor bring closer your realm,

You, O God, showed the doubters a new way, and revealed fresh opportunities to the closed-minded. Ever-faithful God, you will be with us as we move on.

When Jesus realized that the trusted structures and the traditional leaders could no longer serve your purpose, when Jesus knew it was time for a change,

You, O God, were at the heart of his ministry, you sustained him all the way to the cross.

We move on to fresh ways of worship,

We move on to serve in new faith communities.

We move on to work with new partners to build up the life of the United Church and of the whole church of Jesus Christ.

With you, we move on to strive for justice and peace in our local community and throughout the world

We move on to sing the familiar hymns with familiar friends,

With you we move on to sing new songs with new friends. Amen.

STF 503 - Marie

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without
ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Going Out

Though we let go of our cherished place.

God remains with us,

Though we sing new songs and worship in new ways.

God remains with us,

Though we serve in different ways and pursue different causes.

God remains with us,

Though we find new friends in our new congregation.

God's love remains with us,

God's justice will inspire us,

God's Kingdom will call us to action.

God is eternally for you and with you.

Thanks be to God!

Blessing