

ST ANDREWS CHURCH - MOSCOW

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

16th NOVEMBER, 2025.



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into this safer space
And meet a God whose arms open wide in welcome.
Come into this caring space
Where God's arms wait to wrap you in warmth and love.
Come into this space of refuge
And rest in God's loving and comforting embrace.

We begin our worship by singing:

Opening Hymn: 648 – There's a wideness in God's mercy

Good morning and welcome in the name of Christ.

We come to the God who saves us and makes us safe in him. Let us commit ourselves to the welfare of those in our care. We look towards the needs of the vulnerable and consider our responses and actions for their health and salvation. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

We confess the times when we have failed to see when people may have felt unsafe.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

For those occasions when we have not listened effectively to those in distress or danger.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy

For times when we have seen and heard but have failed to act in order to keep others safe.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Forgive our laziness, indifference and ignorance; and create in us a new spirit of responsibility and responsiveness, for the sake of your people and for the extension of your kingdom. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *(All Stand)*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Let us say the Collect together:

Loving God, Help us to love each other as you love us. Show us when people around us are lonely or sad or afraid and teach us how we can help them. Let us remember times when we have felt lonely, sad or afraid ourselves too, and to remember what made us feel better. Forgive us when we have not shown our care when our friends were in trouble and help us to do better in future. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Malachi 4: 1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91

- ¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
² will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'
³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴ he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand,
 but it will not come near you.
⁸ You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.
⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
 the Most High your dwelling-place,
¹⁰ no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
 to guard you in all your ways.
¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,
 the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver;
 I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
 I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading – James 2: 14-26

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? ²¹ Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. ²³ Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’,

and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? ²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP SONGS LED BY THE YOUTH GROUP

280 – How lovely on the mountains

231 – Go tell it on the mountain

535 – O when the saints go marching in

Gospel reading - Matthew 22: 34-40

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: “‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’” ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION/HOMILY

THE NICENE CREED (*All stand*)

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.**

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

POEM

"You" by Donna Ashworth

THE PEACE (*All stand.*)

It is God's will that all of his creation should live in harmony. Make our community here a place of safety and peace for all who enter our doors. The peace and security of God be always with you:

And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: 435 – Make me a channel of your peace

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer,
at your table we present this money,
symbol of the work you have given us to do;
use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

NOTICES

ACCLAMATION

The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,
we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.**

Closing Hymn:

1. May this place be one of nurture
where we all may come to know
how your endless love sustains us
as we live and move and grow.
May we work to build your kingdom
full of truth and light and grace,
living life in all its fullness
held in one divine embrace.

2. For our negligence and failures
you have called us to repent,
drawing energy for action
from the voices of lament.
As the secret hurts long hidden
may at last be brought to light,
may the truth unlock the freedom
that is every person's right.

3. When the smallest child is valued,
and the strong empower the weak,
and each human life is hallowed
and the unheard voices speak:
then your justice stands like mountains
and your mercy falls like rain,
and you hold the brokenhearted
till they learn to live again.

4. So in gratitude we praise you,
and we lift to you in prayer,
all the people you are calling
to this ministry of care.
Give us wisdom, grace and courage,
holding fast to all that's good,
seeing Christ in one another
we will love and serve our Lord.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

As we have been welcomed today,
So may we offer welcome to friends and strangers.
As we have been touched by God's love today,
So may we give love to everyone we meet.
As we have found safety today,
So may we create safety for all who need it. **Amen.**

THE GRACE:

We say together:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the Love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen**

*Acknowledgment: Common Worship- Service and Prayers for the Church of England
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