



Downing Place United Reformed Church Cambridge

Saturday 6th November 2021
2.30pm



Photograph: <http://www.stillvision.co.uk/>

**An Act of Worship
with prayers for the re-dedication of
Downing Place Church**

Presiding Ministers

The Revd Clare Downing
Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church
The Revd Nigel Uden
Downing Place United Reformed Church

Preacher

The Revd Dr John Bradbury
General Secretary, United Reformed Church
and formerly minister of Emmanuel, then Downing Place URCs

Musicians

Mark Dawes
Ian de Massini
Philippa Jones
Owen Saxton

Beadle

Alan Rickard

Technician

David Flynn

First Aider

Jess Uden

This event will be discreetly photographed. Please indicate to the photographers, or Nigel Uden, if you do not wish your image to appear in printed or online material.

*Please join in the hymns and text in **bold** type.*

PREPARATION

Preludes

Verset pour la fête de la Dédicace (Verset for a Dedication Festival)
by Olivier Messiaen 1908-92

The Angels' Song, on a Theme of Orlando Gibbons (Song 34),
Charles Villiers Stanford 1852–1924

No. 1, from "6 Short Preludes and Postludes" op. 105 and
No. 2, from "6 Short Preludes and Postludes" op. 101
by Charles Villiers Stanford 1852–1924

Chorale Prelude on *Rhosymedre*
by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

The congregation is invited to stand as the Bible is brought into the Church

Welcome

Introit

The *Alleluia* plainchant for the Feast Day of the Dedication of a Church:
Alleluia, Alleluia. I will worship you in the temple, and praise your name. Alleluia.

Opening Words

We stand to worship God.

Surely the Lord is in this place;
**it is none other than the house of God
and the gate of heaven.**

Genesis 28.16-17

We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

**Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.**

Psalms 48.9-10

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

**For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

Psalms 95.2-3

Prayer of Approach

PRAISE

Hymn

Westminster Abbey

with Festal Introduction by Ian de Massini (born 1959)



1 Gracious God, for ever faithful,
be with us, as we gather
on this day for which we've waited.
God is with us, now, for ever,
may we serve you, trusting always,
in your new church, as before.

2 Christ our Saviour, always with us,
make your truth known as of old;
lead us now into the future,
show us how we need to change;
for you have new treasures for us,
ours to learn, and ours to share.

3 Holy Spirit, give us courage
for your great adventure now.
New tasks to do, ways to do them
but with you to lead and guide:
for Columba as example,
though we have no seas to cross.

4 God, your glory is our lodestar,
this we seek as our sole aim;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
where you are, there must we be;
consecrate this place of meeting
for your children near and far.

Words: David M. Thompson 1942-
written for the coming together of Emmanuel and St Columba's URCs as
Downing Place Church in November 2021
Tune: adapted from and anthem by Henry Purcell 1659-95

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

inspired by images prepared by the church's children



1 Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear on every page;
thy people owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness :
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

2 Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they summoned all to hasten
and share the great King's feast;
their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, earth restored,
was all in this enfolded :
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

3 Thy mercy will not fail us,
or leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by all creation,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

WORD

Readings 1 Kings 8.22-30

read by David Thomas
on behalf of the Building Group

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, ‘O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, “There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.” ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

27 ‘But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Have regard to your servant’s prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, “My name shall be there”, that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.

Acts 17.16-32

read by Margaret Thompson
Church Secretary

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.’ (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.’ ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’

from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*

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Response

Iona Community

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God

Reflective Music

Sarabande

from Suite no. 3 in C major, BWV 1009, for unaccompanied cello,
by Johann Sebastian Bach 1685 – 1750 played by Philippa Jones

Sermon



1 We are not our own. Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.

2 We are not alone. Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.

3 Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.

4 Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth and all things living,
liturgies of care.

5 And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us:
we are not alone.

6 Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbours
we are not our own!

Words and Tune: Brian Wren 1936-
© Oxford University Press

RESPONSE

Act of Dedication

Thanks

Greetings

Synod Moderator
Assembly Moderator
Ecumenical partner
Pembroke College
MP for Cambridge
Mayor of Cambridge

The Revd Lythan Nevard
The Revd Clare Downing
Fr Robert Mackley
The Lord Smith of Finsbury
Daniel Zeichner MP
Cllr Russ McPherson

with the response

As we ponder your steadfast love, O God,
may we live it out in your world.

DISMISSAL

Hymn

Praise, my soul

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
 to his feet thy tribute bring;
 ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
 who like me his praise should sing?
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favour
 to his people in distress;
 praise him still the same as ever,
 slow to chide, and swift to bless:
 Praise him! Praise him!
 glorious in his faithfulness.

3 Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! Praise him!
widely as his mercy flows.

4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone,
but while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! praise him!
Praise the high Eternal One!

5 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847
Tune: John Goss 1800-80

Benediction, with sung Amen



Postlude

The 1st movement (an orchestral *Sinfonia*) from Cantata no. 29,
by J. S. Bach 1685-1750
arranged for three organists by Ian de Massini.

Thanks to John Bradbury,
with cutting of the cake followed by a tribute from Chris Wright

Retiring Collection for Street Pastors

*All are welcome to refreshments – with some of the cake! –
that will be served in the Hub, the Gibson Hall, and the Garden.*

We warmly welcome and thank our GUESTS

Saturday

The Revd Clare Downing	Moderator, General Assembly of the URC
The Revd Dr John Bradbury	General Secretary, URC
The Revd Lythan Nevard	Moderator, Eastern Synod, URC
The Revd Dr Rick Mearkle	Cambridge Area Partnership of the URC
The Revd Charles Mather	Bar Hill Church
Isabel McCubbin	Fulbourn URC
Wendy Roe	Whittlesford URC
Maggie Jones	Sawston Free Church
The Revd Derek Wales and the Revd Dr Lance Stone	Former ministers of Emmanuel URC
The Lord Smith of Finsbury	Master of Pembroke College
Stuart Humphrey and Brandon Joubert	Coulson Building Group
Dr Nigel Walter, Dirk Visagie and Jack Boyns	Arch:Angel Architects
Douglas Henn-Macrae	Organ consultant
Ben Egan	Absolute Audio
Daniel Zeichner	Member of Parliament for Cambridge
Councillor Russ McPherson	Mayor of Cambridge
Councillor Katie Porrer	Cambridge City Council, Market Ward
The Revd Dr Robert Mackley	Vicar, Little St Mary's Church
The Revd Anna Matthews	Vicar, St Bene't's Church
The Revd Colin Smith	Wesley Methodist Church, Cambridge
Nico Harris	Orthodox Church of St Athanasios, Cherry Hinton
Ann Auger, Elaine Barker	Administrators, Downing Place URC
Margaret Sanderson	Knit One Give One
Dr Sarah Maxwell	Open Table Cambridge

Sunday

The Revd Clare Downing	Moderator, General Assembly of the URC
Elaine Barker	Administrator, Downing Place United Reformed Church
Jan Nicholls	formerly Community Development Director, Emmanuel URC
Dr Giles Waller	formerly Administrator, St Columba's URC
May Block	St Luke's Local Ecumenical Partnership
The Revd Dr Steve Langford & Elaine Langford	St Andrew's Street Baptist Church
The Revd Samantha White	Principal, Westminster College
Andy Espey, Joanne Smith	St Columba Foundation, Group Therapy Centre
Iain Spence	Street Pastors