

## HYMN

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry;  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
I will speak My word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am. Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
If You lead me;  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone;  
I will speak My word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts are satisfied;  
I will give My life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*If Communion is to follow:-*

### **The Peace**

Jesus of Nazareth, carpenter; you shared with us the world  
of work and you promised us your peace to share.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

## Church, Change and the Economy

An Act of Worship

### HYMN

1. God, inspire your people  
in this world to build  
something of your kingdom!  
and to do your will.  
Lead us to discover  
partnership in love;  
bless our ways of sharing,  
and our pride reprove.
2. Holy is the setting  
of each room and yard,  
lecture hall and kitchen,  
office, shop and ward.  
Holy is the rhythm  
of our working hours;  
hallow then our purpose,  
energy and powers.
3. God of desk and altar,  
bind our lives in one,  
that in work and worship  
Love may set the tone.  
Give us grace to listen,  
clarity of speech;  
make us truly thankful  
for the gifts of each.
4. Strengthen, God for service,  
hand and heart and brain;  
help us good relations  
daily to maintain.  
Let the living presence  
of the servant-Christ  
heighten our devotion,  
make our life a feast.

*Fred Khan  
Tunes: Evelyns or Au Clair de la Lune  
or Camberwell.*

### PRAYER

Powerful God, in our worship we acknowledge you as the source  
of all that is and all we are.  
Living Christ, in our gathering we acknowledge your leadership  
and your gift of salvation.  
Holy Spirit, in our ministry and service we seek your wisdom,  
strength and inspiration.

## PSALM 104

*Verse 1 of the Psalm is followed by verse 1 of the reflection, followed at once by verse 2 of the Psalm and verse 2 of the reflection, and so on.*

Psalm 104 (extracts)

A reflection upon Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
O Lord God, how excellent is your  
greatness!

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
what have we done with your  
creation?

You wrap yourself with light as  
with a cloak.  
And spread out the heavens like a  
curtain.

Clothed in old newspapers your  
children  
sleep in boxes in shop  
doorways.

The trees of the Lord are full of  
sap,  
The cedars of Lebanon which he  
planted

We have stretched out the  
motorways  
and centres of consumerism,

You lay the beams of your  
chambers in the waters;

and built high-rise dwellings  
upon your meadows.

The clouds are your chariot; you  
Ride upon the wind.

We make the motor car our  
Chariot and exhaust fumes  
ride upon the wind.

You make the wind your  
messengers,  
And flames of fire your servant.

We make fax and e-mail our  
Messengers,  
and the TV and video is our  
minister.

You have set the earth upon its  
foundations,  
So that it shall never move at any  
time.

You have set the earth on its  
foundations,  
we have learned the way to  
destroy it.

Lord, you took a risk in creating this world,  
Sometimes it looks as though it's all gone wrong.  
We want to work with you in making it come right.  
**May we risk all for your kingdom.**

Lord, you took a risk in making people in your image,  
Sometimes it looks like we have forgotten who we are.  
We want to work with you in finding our real identity.  
**May we risk all for your kingdom.**

Lord, you took a risk in sending your Son.  
On the cross it looked as though your love had lost out.  
We want to work with you in making resurrection a reality  
**May we risk all for your kingdom.**

Lord, you took a risk in calling the church for mission.  
Sometimes it looks as if we are only interested in ourselves  
We want to work with you in transforming the whole of life  
**May we risk all for your kingdom.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
remind us that you are parent to all your children,  
whoever they are or come from,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
establishing peace and justice,  
hope and life for all peoples,  
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
disturb us into an awareness of the needs of others  
Forgive us our sin,  
our pride and also our prejudice.  
As we forgive those who sin against us,  
Lead us not into temptation  
especially keep our hearts and minds open to see  
the good in others;  
Deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, just and true,  
the power, gentle and fair,  
and the glory, shot through with the colours of love,  
are yours, for ever and ever. Amen**

**We confess the times we have not witnessed for your love and truth, but followed blindly the powerful of the world, though they have led us into ways of injustice, fear and conflict. Forgive us and fill us with your love.**

**We confess the times we have despised the weak and the powerless: times when we have exploited, or just ignored them. Forgive us and fill us with your love.**

**Dear Lord, enable us to know your forgiveness, understand your grace, and be filled with your love and power. Amen.**

Lord, born in poverty in the village of Bethlehem  
**your kingdom come  
to the children of our communities and country.**

Lord, grown to manhood in the town of Nazareth,  
who honoured the work of hands  
by your toil in the carpenter's shop  
**your Kingdom come to the people of our  
communities who are without the dignity of work.**

Lord, who shared his life with neighbours, family and friends,  
who travelled about all the villages of Galilee,  
feeding the hungry,  
healing the sick,  
bringing light to those who lived in darkness,  
**your kingdom come to all who suffer in our  
communities  
to all who are hungry, sick, or have no place to live;  
to all who are sad and lonely.**

Lord, who came to preach the gospel to the poor  
and proclaim deliverance to the captives and sight to the blind,  
**drive from our communities the spirit of fear  
and let your light shine forth upon them,  
O Lord, sun of righteousness,  
Your Kingdom come. Amen.**

You covered it with deep as  
with a mantle;  
The waters stood higher  
than the mountains.

At your rebuke they fled:  
At the voice of your thunder  
they hastened away.

They went up into the hills  
and down to the valleys  
To the places that you  
appointed for them.

You appointed the moon to  
mark its seasons,  
And the sun knows the time  
of its setting.

You water the mountains  
from your dwelling on high,  
the earth is fully satisfied  
by the fruit of your works.

O Lord, how manifold are  
your works!  
In wisdom you have made  
them all,  
The earth is full of your creatures.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Amos 8**

Litter covers it as with a with  
mantle;  
butter mountains stand above  
the  
the hills,

At the voice of our conscience  
we  
pledge our money to Telethons  
and  
send our unwanted clothes to  
jumble  
sales.

Our sisters and brothers stay in  
their deserts, their hands empty  
in the position we have  
appointed  
for them.

Yet still, O Lord, you create a  
sunrise each and every morning.

You give us bluebells in shady  
woods, and the lakes and the  
moors.  
and put dewdrops on spiders'  
webs  
in the early sunlight.

O Lord of infinite patience,  
O Lord of infinite love and care:  
**OPEN OUR EYES.**

## HYMN

In affairs of economics  
prophet Amos spoke the word;  
those who gained from corrupt commerce  
closed their ears to what they heard;  
money ceased to be a servant,  
means of meeting human need,  
killed the heart of God's own people  
ruled by power of human greed.

In affairs of church attendance  
prophet Amos spoke the word;  
those who offered tainted tribute  
closed their ears to what they heard;  
worship ceased to be a service  
offered gladly from the heart,  
lacked the sacrificial living,  
its essential other part.

In affairs of daily leisure  
prophet Amos spoke the word;  
but the constant background music  
closed their ears to what they heard:  
leisure ceased to be a tonic  
recreating soul and mind,  
men and women drunk with pleasure  
lost the gift of being kind.

To the soul of every nation  
prophet Amos speaks the word;  
in our leisure, commerce, worship,  
hear the counsel of the Lord:  
fear the wrath of holy judgement  
self-inflicted by our ways,  
let the will of God Almighty  
be the ruler of our days.

*Bernard Braley*

## GOSPEL SERMON

## HYMN

They who bear a daily workload follow where my feet have trod,  
they who work without complaining do the holy will of God;  
nevermore thou needest seek me: I am with thee everywhere;  
raise the stone, and thou shalt find me; cleave the wood and I  
am there.

Where the many toil together, there am I among my own;  
where the tired workman sleepeth, there I am with him alone.  
I, the Peace that passeth knowledge, dwell amid the daily strife;  
I, the Bread of heaven, am broken in the sacrament of life.

Every task, however simple, sets the soul that does it free;  
every deed of love and mercy done to Man, is done to me.  
nevermore thou needest seek me; I am with thee everywhere,  
raise the stone, and thou shalt find me; cleave the wood and I  
am there.

*Henry Van Dyke  
Tune: Everton*

## PRAYERS

### **Matthew 13: (33, 44 & 45)**

Jesus told them still another parable. "The **Kingdom of heaven** is like this. A woman takes some yeast and mixes it with forty litres of flour until the whole batch of dough rises."

"The **Kingdom of heaven is like this**. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field."

"Also, the **Kingdom of heaven is like this**. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl."

**We confess the times we have denied the power of your love, and sought our own power through manipulation and domination. Forgive us and fill us with your love."**