

# S<sup>†</sup>Andrew's Kirk Ella

## Morning Prayer 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Welcome** – we are glad to see you. We meet to hear God speak through his Word, to thank him for his goodness to us, to bring our own needs before him, to pray for his world, and to encourage each other. Our aim is to encounter the living God together, through his Son Jesus Christ, and to discover in our daily experience the difference that a relationship with heaven makes to our lives.

**Theme: In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength** (Is 30:15)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.  
***Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.***"

Matthew 11:28-29, NIV

**Christ is made the sure foundation,**

Christ the head and corner-stone  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the Church in one;  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

All within that holy city  
dearly loved of God on high,  
in exultant jubilation  
sing, in perfect harmony;  
God the One-in-Three adoring  
in glad hymns eternally.

We as living stones invoke you:  
 Come among us, Lord, today!  
 with your gracious loving-kindness  
 hear your children as we pray;  
 and the fullness of your blessing  
 in our fellowship display.

Here entrust to all your servants  
 what we long from you to gain -  
 that on earth and in the heavens  
 we one people shall remain,  
 till united in your glory  
 Evermore with you we reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,  
 praise and honour to the Son,  
 praise and honour to the Spirit,  
 ever Three and ever One:  
 one in power and one in glory  
 while eternal ages run.

JM Neale  
 © Jubilate Hymns

### **Confession**

***Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.***

### **Creed**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Apostles' Creed

**Speak O Lord as we come to You**

To receive the food of Your holy word  
 Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
 That the light of Christ might be seen today  
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
 Speak O Lord and fulfil in us  
 All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience  
 Holy reverence true humility  
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
 In the radiance of Your purity  
 Cause our faith to rise  
 Cause our eyes to see  
 Your majestic love and authority  
 Words of power that can never fail  
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
 Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
 Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
 That will echo down through eternity  
 And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
 And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
 Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
 And the earth is filled with Your glory

Stuart Townend  
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**Reading:** Isaiah 28:1-22

<sup>1</sup> Woe to that wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards,  
 to the fading flower, his glorious beauty,  
 set on the head of a fertile valley –

to that city, the pride of those laid low by wine!

<sup>2</sup> See, the Lord has one who is powerful and strong.

Like a hailstorm and a destructive wind,  
like a driving rain and a flooding downpour,  
he will throw it forcefully to the ground.

<sup>3</sup> That wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards,  
will be trampled underfoot.

<sup>4</sup> That fading flower, his glorious beauty,  
set on the head of a fertile valley,  
will be like figs ripe before harvest –  
as soon as people see them and take them in hand,  
they swallow them.

<sup>5</sup> In that day the LORD Almighty  
will be a glorious crown,  
a beautiful wreath  
for the remnant of his people.

<sup>6</sup> He will be a spirit of justice  
to the one who sits in judgment,  
a source of strength  
to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

<sup>7</sup> And these also stagger from wine  
and reel from beer:  
priests and prophets stagger from beer  
and are befuddled with wine;  
they reel from beer,  
they stagger when seeing visions,  
they stumble when rendering decisions.

<sup>8</sup> All the tables are covered with vomit  
and there is not a spot without filth.

<sup>9</sup> 'Who is it he is trying to teach?  
To whom is he explaining his message?  
To children weaned from their milk,  
to those just taken from the breast?

<sup>10</sup> For it is:  
do this, do that,  
a rule for this, a rule for that;  
a little here, a little there.'

<sup>11</sup> Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues  
God will speak to this people,

<sup>12</sup> to whom he said,  
'This is the resting-place, let the weary rest';  
and, 'This is the place of repose' –  
but they would not listen.

<sup>13</sup> So then, the word of the LORD to them will become:  
do this, do that,

- a rule for this, a rule for that;  
 a little here, a little there –  
 so that as they go they will fall backwards;  
 they will be injured and snared and captured.
- <sup>14</sup> Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers  
 who rule this people in Jerusalem.
- <sup>15</sup> You boast, 'We have entered into a covenant with death,  
 with the realm of the dead we have made an agreement.  
 When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by,  
 it cannot touch us,  
 for we have made a lie our refuge  
 and falsehood our hiding-place.'
- <sup>16</sup> So this is what the Sovereign LORD says:  
 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
 a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
 the one who relies on it  
 will never be stricken with panic.
- <sup>17</sup> I will make justice the measuring line  
 and righteousness the plumb-line;  
 hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie,  
 and water will overflow your hiding-place.
- <sup>18</sup> Your covenant with death will be annulled;  
 your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand.  
 When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by,  
 you will be beaten down by it.
- <sup>19</sup> As often as it comes it will carry you away;  
 morning after morning, by day and by night,  
 it will sweep through.'  
 The understanding of this message  
 will bring sheer terror.
- <sup>20</sup> The bed is too short to stretch out on,  
 the blanket too narrow to wrap around you.
- <sup>21</sup> The LORD will rise up as he did at Mount Perazim,  
 he will rouse himself as in the Valley of Gibeon –  
 to do his work, his strange work,  
 and perform his task, his alien task.
- <sup>22</sup> Now stop your mocking,  
 or your chains will become heavier;  
 the Lord, the LORD Almighty, has told me  
 of the destruction decreed against the whole land. (NIV)

## Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:

‘See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.’

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

‘The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,’

<sup>8</sup> and,

‘A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (NIV)

## Sermon

## Prayers

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.***

**Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing:**

Christ over all, our undivided aim;  
 Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,  
 wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!  
 We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,  
 the will that lacks the courage to be free,  
 the weary labours, all but unavailing,  
 to bring us nearer what a church should be.

Lord of the church, we seek a Father's blessing,  
 a true repentance and a faith restored,  
 a swift obedience and a new possessing,  
 filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!  
 We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,  
 unnumbered voices with a single prayer -  
 the living water for our souls' reviving,  
 in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

Lord of the church, we long for our uniting,  
 true to one calling, by one vision stirred;  
 one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,  
 one in the truth of Jesus and His word!  
 So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,  
 one church triumphant one new song shall sing,  
 to praise His glory, risen and ascended,  
 Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Timothy Dudley-Smith  
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***Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.***

Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

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