

Livingstone Parish Church
Sunday 1st October 2023
Rev. Ross Mitchell

Hymn 1 CH4 159

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.

Lord, for that word, the Word of life that 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.

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.

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.

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.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Hymn 2 CH4 204

I am the Church! You are the Church!
We are the Church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world,
yes, we're the Church together.

The Church is not a building,
the Church is not a steeple.
The Church is not a resting-place,
the Church is a people!
I am the Church...

We're many kinds of people
with many kinds of faces:
all colours and all ages, too,
from all times and places.
I am the Church...

And when the people gather
there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying
sometimes,
all of it saying:
I am the Church...

At Pentecost some people
received the Holy Spirit
and told the good news through the world
to all who would hear it.
I am the Church...

I count if I am ninety, or nine,
or just a baby;
there's one thing I am sure about
and I don't mean maybe:
I am the Church...

Richard Kinsey Avery (1934-2020)
and Donald Stuart Marsh (1923-2010)

Hymn 3 CH4 356

Meekness and majesty,
manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony -
the man who is God:
Lord of eternity,
dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility
and washes our feet.

Oh, what a mystery –
meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
this is your God!

Father's pure radiance,
perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience
to death on a cross:
suffering to give us life,
conquering through sacrifice –
and, as they crucify,
prays, 'Father forgive'.
O what a mystery...

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
love indestructible
in frailty appears:
Lord of infinity,
stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity
to the heights of his throne.
O what a mystery...

this is your God!

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Hymn 4 CH4 191

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you,
I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you,
you will never sink beneath the waves.
Do not be afraid...

When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.
Do not be afraid...

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
Do not be afraid...

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.
Do not be afraid...

You are mine, O my child; I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.
Do not be afraid...

Gerald Markland (b. 1953)
from *Isaiah 43: 1-4*

Hymn 5 MP 419

Like a mighty river flowing,
like a flower in beauty growing,
far beyond all human knowing
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the hills serene and even,
like the coursing clouds of heaven,
like the heart that's been forgiven,
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the summer breezes playing,
like the tall trees softly swaying,
like the lips of silent praying
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the morning sun ascended,
like the scents of evening blended,
like a friendship never ended
is the perfect peace of God.

Like the azure ocean swelling,
like the jewel all-excelling,
far beyond our human telling
is the perfect peace of God.

Michael Perry (1942-1996)

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Exeunt *(Sing Twice)*

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go
with you,**

wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

Celtic Daily Prayer

Stevenston Livingstone
Church of Scotland



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