

# COMMON GROUND GUILDFORD



A Service of Celebration & Commitment

4pm St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Two cards will be distributed at the start of the service: a card with the 4 Community Promises and a diagram describing the Common Ground Community, and a second card for recording our individual response and commitment to Common Ground.

The Service is led by Andy Wheeler, Common Ground Community leader.

## **WELCOME**

Welcome & Introduction

- Prayer
- Singing in parts and unity:
  - Amen Siakudumisa  
Amen, Siakudumisa  
Amen Bawo, Amen Bawo  
Amen Siakudumisa  
(Amen, we praise your name O God)

## **THE COMMITMENT WE ALL SHARE (Anne Payne)**

(Adapted from Dutch monastic rule for a new brother 1973 Benedictine Priory, 'Regina Pacis')

Following Jesus does not mean slavishly copying His life.  
It means making his choice of life our own,  
Starting from our own potential, and in the place we find ourselves  
**Lord Jesus, help us to follow.**

It means living for the values for which Jesus lived and died.  
It means following the path He took  
And seeing things as He saw them.  
**Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see**

If there is anything in which this life, this way, can be expressed,  
In which God has revealed Himself most clearly,  
It is the reality of love.  
What love is we can learn from Jesus.  
**Lord Jesus, teach us to love.**

He will teach us to put the centre of ourselves, outside.  
For no one has greater love  
Than the one who lays down their life for a friend.  
**Lord Jesus, help us to live sacrificially.**

He will also teach us to be unlimited space for others,  
Invitation and openness:  
'Come to me, all who are weary and over-burdened  
And I will give you rest.'  
**Lord Jesus, let us speak words of welcome to all.**

Let us be converted to love every day.

Change all our energies, all our potential,  
Into selfless gifts for the other person.  
Then we ourselves will be changed from within  
And through us let God's Kingdom break into the world. **(AMEN)**

HYMN:

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
Beyond the wood and stone,  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
And live the word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
Bear the image of God's face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
Their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Marty Haugen  
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#### **THE JOURNEY SO FAR (Andy Wheeler)**

- The Journey and What I have Learned
  - PRAY → SHARE → GO
  - PRAY → TOGETHER – TOGETHER → GO
  - Plus GIVE!
- 4 Promises & 5 Ways of Going
- A first invitation to join and take part
  - As Members of Common Ground

- As Companions of Common Ground
- As Friends of Common Ground

### **PRAY TOGETHER**

- Reading Acts 13:1-4
- It might look like this – Comment and Prayer - 1 min

### **SHARE TOGETHER**

- Reading Acts 2: 42-47
- It might look like this – Comment and Prayer - 1 min

### **GO TOGETHER**

- Reading ; Luke 9 : 1-6
- It might look like this – Comment and prayer - 1 min

### **RESPONSE TO TONIGHT'S INVITATION**

- Take the Promise card, and the Response Card. Either in your seat, or moving to another part of the church, prayerfully consider your response to the invitation to the 4 promises – as a Member, a Companion, or a Friend. If you are ready to do so, fill in the response card and bring it to the basket at the front. Return to your seat.

### **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMISE AND COMMITMENT**

#### **THE 4 PROMISES AND A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

#### Leader and all those making a commitment to Common Ground

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your call on our lives, stirring us, unsettling us, and drawing us into new paths where we are changed and renewed, so that we may show your love in your world. We thank you that, through your Spirit, you draw us into new communities of friendship, prayer and service. We thank you now for Common Ground Guildford and pray that we may be filled with your Spirit as we commit ourselves to walk with each other and with Jesus our Example, Friend and Saviour.

#### Those wishing to become Members of Common Ground

Q. Those wishing to become Members of Common Ground undertake , for such a period as they feel called and committed, to pray together, build community together, live as far as they are able by the 4 Promises and to participate together in the missional activity of Common Ground. Do you wish to become a member of the Common Ground Community for Mission?

A. I do

Q. Will you continue in fellowship in your home church, whilst also continuing to grow in your discipleship and service through Common Ground?

A. I will.

Q. Are you willing, as God enables you, to embrace and live out the Four Promises of the Common Ground Way of Life:

A. We promise before God , and seeking his help, and in the presence of our brothers and sisters gathered here:

TO PRAY – daily, individually, and with others, for Guildford, for the world, and for Common Ground, its members and ministries.

TO MEET & SHARE TOGETHER – in the community meetings for prayer, friendship and learning

TO GO TOGETHER – working with others to offer the Christian Faith in new ways to the people of our town.

TO GIVE – through finance, and the offering of our gifts of creativity, skills and time.

#### Those wishing to become Companions of Common Ground

Q. Companions of Common Ground are committed to the vision of the Community but are unable to commit fully to share in its pattern of life. They undertake to pray and to participate as they are able to fulfil the aims and goals of the community. Do you wish to become an Associate of Common Ground?

A. I do.

Q. Are you willing to support the Common Ground Community in prayer, in encouragement, and in action as you are able, living out in your context the central vision and promises of Common Ground:

TO PRAY DAILY

TO MEET WITH OTHERS TO BUILD CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

TO GO WITH OTHERS IN MISSION

A. We wish to live out in our context the vision and values of Common Ground and to support and participate in the activities of the Common Ground Community as we are able.

#### Those wishing to become Friends of Common Ground

Q. Friends of Common Ground may live at a distance, or for a variety of reasons be unable to participate directly. They undertake to pray for, to promote the work of the Community and to share in it when opportunity may arise. Do you wish to become a Friend of Common Ground?

A. I do

#### To all making commitments to Common Ground today, and all gathered:

As we make these promises before God and with and before our sisters and brothers, we pray:

May Christ , as a light  
illumine and guide us.

May Christ, as a shield

Overshadow us.

Christ under us;

Christ over us;

Christ beside us

on our left and on our right.

May Christ be in the heart of all to whom we speak;  
In the mouth of all who speak to us.  
Christ as a light;  
Christ as a shield:  
Christ beside us  
On our left and our right.  
AMEN

### **THE OFFERING OF OUR PROMISES**

- The Promise cards are brought to a local church leader who receives them on behalf of the churches of Guildford,
- He asks God's blessing on the Common Ground Community and its ministry for the town, and the promises that have been made today.
- The local leader blesses the congregation.

### **SONG:**

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know,  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in and you in me.

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind,  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare,  
will you let me answer prayer  
in you, and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside,  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go

where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you, and you in me.

John L. Bell and Graham Maule  
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