



The Order of Service for



The Admission of Mrs. Susan Swindale to the office of Local Preacher

4.00 pm - Sunday 6th September 2020

St Andrew's Methodist Church, Harlow

Introduction

John Wesley recognized that some lay people were called to preach the Gospel and he appointed them to this work. Methodist Local Preachers are called by God and trained to lead God's people in Worship. After their initial training and approval by the Circuit Meeting, they are admitted during an act of worship to the office and work of a Local Preacher. The office of a Local Preacher is a permanent one, to which a person is admitted only once.

Notes about today's Service

Covid-19 social distancing measures require several adaptations to today's service.

- *Please wear a face covering if you are able and observe social distancing and the instructions given by the stewards.*
- *Sadly, congregational singing isn't permitted at the moment, so we will listen to the hymns that Susan has chosen. The words have been included for you to follow.*
- *An offertory collection cannot be taken during the service so there will be a retiring collection to support the HAEBEA Training Fund as you leave the church. Your generosity is appreciated.*

Please remember, above all else, today's service is one of joy, celebration and thanksgiving to mark the culmination of Susan's journey to becoming a Local Preacher for which we say, "Thanks be to God!"

Words said by all are in **bold print**.

The Preparation

Revd Blair Kirkby

The Lord gave the word,
and great was the company of the preachers.

In this act of worship, we are to admit Susan Swindale
to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher.

Glory to you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
in company with all the saints
we proclaim your greatness and your majesty.

Glory to you, now and for ever.

Amen.

In silence let us call to mind our sins.

Silence

**Holy God,
we confess that we have failed to be your faithful people.
We have not listened to your word,
responded to your call,
or loved our neighbours.
Forgive us, we pray,
and free us for joyful obedience;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Merciful God,
grant to your people pardon and peace;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Lord our God,
as we rejoice in the ministry of preaching,
let the Gospel of your Son come to us,
not in words alone, but in power and love;
that through our life and witness
the world may believe;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



The Ministry of the Word

New Testament Reading: Romans 5.1-5

Mr. David Swindale

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading: Luke 4.14 - 24

Mr. Fred Arthur

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.

He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

Revd Debbie Hodgson

Hymn: **Give Me the Faith Which Can Remove**
Charles Wesley, pub.1749

1. Give me the faith which can remove
 And sink the mountain to a plain;
 Give me the childlike praying love,
 Which longs to build Thy house again;
 Thy love, let it my heart o’erpow’r,
 And all my simple soul devour.

2. I want an even strong desire,
I want a calmly fervent zeal,
To save poor souls out of the fire,
To snatch them from the verge of hell,
And turn them to a pard'ning God,
And quench the brands in Jesus' blood.

3. I would the precious time redeem,
And longer live for this alone:
To spend and to be spent for them
Who have not yet my Savior known;
Fully on these my mission prove,
And only breathe, to breathe Thy love.

4. My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
Into Thy blessed hands receive;
And let me live to preach Thy Word,
And let me to Thy glory live;
My every sacred moment spend
In publishing the sinner's Friend.

5. Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine,
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a zeal like Thine,
And lead them to Thy open side,
The sheep for whom the Shepherd died.

The Admission

The Presentation

Susan comes to the front of the church.

Miss Gillian Amphlett, the Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting presents Susan to the Revd Blair Kirkby, saying:

Mr. Superintendent, I present to you Susan Swindale.

The Church has examined her knowledge, competence and conviction.

On the recommendation of the Local Preachers' Meeting, Susan has been approved by the Circuit Meeting for admission to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher.

The Preface

Revd Blair Kirkby

The Church of Christ exists to glorify God the Father, who has revealed the way of salvation in the life, ministry and victory of Christ, and has given the Holy Spirit to inspire Christian proclamation and preaching.

From the early days of Methodism, God has called lay people to lead worship and prayer, and to preach the Gospel. In every generation since, women and men have responded to this call and have been admitted as Local Preachers.

Local Preachers are called to be worthy in character, to lead God's people in prayer and praise, and to share in the Church's mission in the whole world.

Susan, yours is a responsibility rooted in the word of God. You will bring the message of salvation to all, in season and out of season.

As you lead worship, and offer good news to others, your own life will be shaped and transformed.

The Questions

Revd Blair Susan, do you believe that you are called by God to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher?

Susan I do so believe.

Revd Blair Will you be faithful in prayer and in the reading and study of the Scriptures, and will you preach nothing contrary to the doctrines of the Methodist Church?

Susan With God' s help, I will.

Revd Blair Will you accept our discipline and work together with your sisters and brothers in the Church?

Susan With God' s help, I will.

Revd Blair Will you make yourself available to lead worship, attend the Local Preachers' Meeting and develop your skills and studies?

Susan With God' s help, I will.

Revd Blair Will you seek to fashion your life according to the way of Christ and in all things seek to promote, not your own glory, but the glory of the Lord?

Susan With God' s help, I will.

Revd Blair May the God of all grace uphold you in the service to which you are called.

All: **Amen.**

The Admission

The Superintendent addresses the Local Preachers present and says:

The admission of Susan Swindale as Local Preachers in the Methodist Church will bring her into membership of the Local Preachers' Meeting to which you belong.

I invite you, as Local Preachers, to stand as she is admitted, and thereby re-affirm your own ministry.

The Local Preachers stand.

The Superintendent says to the people:

I invite you all to stand.

The people stand.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
our creator and our redeemer.
In Christ, you offer redemption and fullness of life.
In every generation you call men and women to speak
your word and proclaim your glory.
We thank you that your servant
has responded to your call
to be Local Preacher in your Church.

Give your Holy Spirit to Susan
whom we now admit
to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher,
that she may fulfil her calling.
Grant her the assurance of faith,
that she may abound in hope
and be rooted and grounded in love,
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Presentation of a Bible

Susan is presented with a bible.

The Superintendent says:

Receive this Bible as a sign of your authority to preach the Gospel and lead God's people in worship and praise.

The Superintendent says to the people:

Susan has been admitted to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church.

Will you support her with your prayers, faithfully share in the worship that she leads, and receive through her the word of God?

We will.

The people sit.

Miss Gillian Amphlett reads the President's letter and gives a copy to Susan.

Susan will address those present.



Hymn: A Living Prayer – Alison Krauss

In this world I walk alone
With no place to call my home,
But there's one who holds my hand
Through rugged roads, through barren lands.

The way is dark, the road is steep,
But He's become my eyes to see,
The strength to climb, my griefs to bear,
The Saviour lives inside me there.

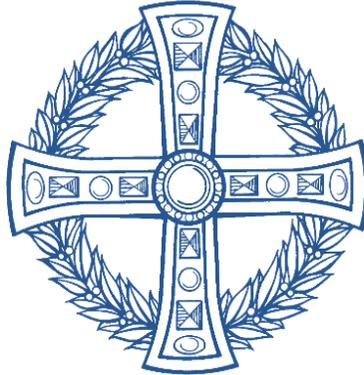
In Your love I find release,
A haven from my unbelief.
Take my life and let me be
A living prayer, my God, to Thee

In these trials of life I find
Another voice inside my mind.
He comforts me and bids me live
Inside the love the Father gives.

In Your love I find release,
A haven from my unbelief.
Take my life and let me be
A living prayer, my God, to Thee.
Take my life and let me be
A living prayer, my God, to Thee.

The Benediction

Revd Blair Kirkby



The retiring collection as you leave the church is for the HAEBEA Training Fund which finances training events and provides grant support to enable churches and individuals, lay and ordained, to access and respond to various training needs.

Thank you everyone who has participated in this evening's worship, and to those who have helped in any way with the preparations.

Please continue to pray for Susan and for all our Preachers, Worship Leaders and Ministers.

Please take this Service Book with you.

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