

St Anselm: Understanding

Wednesday Worship
21st April 2021



Newbury, St George & St John

Intro music: A Prayer of St Anselm

This is the time when light fades
and shadows lengthen and sounds are subdued
– all as God intended.

Amen.

This is the time when bodies relax,
minds unwind, and tiredness comes
– all as God intended.

Amen.

This is the time when others greet the morning
while we meet the night,
and the world continues to sing,
in all the accents of creation,
a love-song to its Maker.

Blessed be God's Name.

Silence

Jesus you have drawn us here,
**From different homes
and from different backgrounds,
to unite us in your love.**

St Anselm: I believe in order to understand

Think of areas where you feel a little more understanding would help; of
areas where understanding fails us, where events occur leaving us feeling a
despairing lack of understanding.

Silence

Lord to whom else could we go?,
You alone have the words of eternal life..

We ask you to open our minds to greater possibilities;
to push back the margins of our understanding.

To think your thoughts
And look with your eyes.

Oh Lord our God, to whom else could we go?
You alone have the words of eternal life.

Reading: Job 28.12-28

'But where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
Mortals do not know the way to it,
and it is not found in the land of the living.
The deep says, "It is not in me",
and the sea says, "It is not with me."
It cannot be bought for gold,
and silver cannot be weighed out as its price.
It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir,
in precious onyx or sapphire.
Gold and glass cannot equal it,
nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold.
No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal;
the price of wisdom is above pearls.
The chrysolite of Ethiopia cannot compare with it,
nor can it be valued in pure gold.

'Where then does wisdom come from?
And where is the place of understanding?
It is hidden from the eyes of all living,
and concealed from the birds of the air.
Abaddon and Death say,
"We have heard a rumour of it with our ears."

'God understands the way to it,
and he knows its place.
For he looks to the ends of the earth,

and sees everything under the heavens.
When he gave to the wind its weight,
and apportioned out the waters by measure;
when he made a decree for the rain,
and a way for the thunderbolt;
then he saw it and declared it;
he established it, and searched it out.
And he said to humankind,
“Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding.” ’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

There is so much in our world to confuse and distress us;

So much that we do not understand.

You say that to be wise we need to have reverence for the Lord of Wisdom.

To understand we need to turn from evil.

We ask you, Lord, to help us see the evil that is in our lives, and in our world.

We ask you to give us courage to face it, reject it and fight against it.

Music:

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be in mine end, and in my departing...

John Rutter, Cambridge Singers

Silence

Let us pray together now for a deeper awareness of God's wisdom in our world. For all whose lives are confused and bewildering; for those who can see no sense in life;

Lord may your wisdom teach us understanding.

For those who see God's wisdom as foolishness; for those who entrust their security to what is perishable;

Silence

Lord may your wisdom show us where lasting treasure is found.

For all in positions of authority and responsibility, throughout the world;

Silence

Lord may your wisdom give insight and integrity.

For those who find it hard to make decisions; for those paying dearly for past mistakes;

Silence

Lord may your wisdom work in us for good, in every situation.

Lord God of Wisdom,
realign our minds and hearts and wills to be at one with you, in all we think, and feel and do. Amen.

You never sleep, God. You are always awake, always watching, always will-
ing the world and its people to turn in the right direction.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep because of illness, or worry, or fear; or for reasons they cannot understand.

(pause)

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight, will you be close to those who wait patiently or impatiently for a birth or a death, for a visit, or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

(pause)

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight, will you be close to those who wonder, who look for inspiration, who long to be with the one or the ones they love, who hope to be together, to hug and be close again.

(pause)

God be near them.

God be near them.

And God, listen to us as we share with you whatever joys or sorrows, discoveries, or questions we will take with us into the night.

(pause)

God be near us,

God be near us.

Into your hands we commit ourselves – our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures – for all things come from you and are best kept in your care.

Amen

Closing responses

For the day now done

Thanks be to God.

For the rest before us

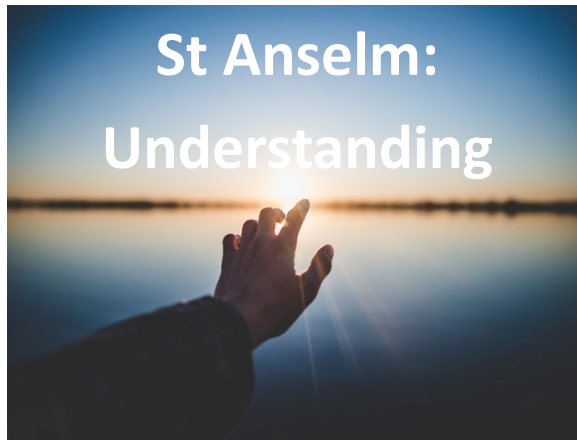
Thanks be to God.

Because God never sleeps so that we can,

Thanks be to God.

But before the day is done,
let God's holy name be praised;
and let God's people say Amen
Amen.

Closing music: God be in my head



Benefice of St George and St John

Online Liturgy 2021

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(Susan Sayers)

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