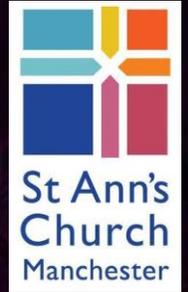


The Promise and the Gift



Sunday Celebration

¶ Gathering

Cover photograph by Ottmar Morett

Sydwell Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Words of welcome and introduction are said.

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's Light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar

Collect for Today

Sydwell Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

¶ Word and Prayer

The Reading from Genesis – read by Andries de Jong

Genesis 25.19-34

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,
²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord.

²³ And the Lord said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' ³² Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' ³³ Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Andries
All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**The destiny of nations -
and flaws of character**
Canon Nigel Ashworth

Gospel Reading *read by Sue Watson*

Sue
All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 13-1-9, 18-23

¹ Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!

Then Jesus told his disciples, ¹⁸ Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

Sue
All

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The extraordinary promise and the abundant gift
Canon Nigel Ashworth

Affirmation of Faith

Sydwell
All

Let us declare our faith in God.
**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Anthem Choir of St Ann's

The choir have prepared Thomas Tallis's 'If ye love me', a setting of the text from the Gospel of St John. This passage exemplifies 'the promise and the gift' – here the promise and the gift of the Holy Spirit:

If ye love me,
keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another Comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever,
e'en the Spirit of Truth.

John 14.15-17

Responding in Faith and Love

The following 'Kyrie' form of prayer is said

Sydwel We give thanks that we are promised the gift of God's Holy Spirit.
Let us confess that we so often take this gift for granted
and even grieve the Holy Spirit of God:

Sydwel Lord God, for such a gift,
the Spirit who teaches us of Jesus
and calls us in our hearts,
we offer thanks and praise.
Forgive us when we fail to listen:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Sydwel Lord God, so many seeds are sown in our lives,
we give thanks for the ones which strike a deep root
in fertile soil.
Forgive us for when we fail to nurture what you have planted:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Sydwel Lord God, we give thanks for your abundance shown in creation
calling us to adore you,
to stewardship of what you have made,
and to serve one another in generous humility.
Forgive us for when we fail to grasp
how great is your grace bestowed upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Sydwel The Lord have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
heal you by his Spirit,
and bring you to everlasting life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Prayers are led by the Canon Nigel Ashworth.
This response is used*

Nigel Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us**

At the end

All Lord of life,
**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Peace

Sydwell introduces the Peace and says

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace together.

¶ Ending

Hymn

Light's abode, celestial Salem,
vision whence true peace doth spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
O how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing!

There for ever and for ever
alleluia is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken
is the feast-day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.

There no cloud nor passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noonday, glorious noonday,
from the Sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from labour,
for unknown are toil and care.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

Thomas à Kempis, trans John Mason Neale

The Blessing

Sydwell The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus
fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you
and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Voluntary

*The service concludes with a voluntary played
by Simon Passmore.*

*Please come back after the music to greet other
worshippers.*