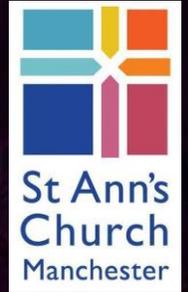


The Promise and the Gift



Celebrating St Ann

¶ Gathering

Cover photograph by Ottmar Morett

Nigel 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

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound,
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along:
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

H W Baker Psalm 150

Opening Prayer 'Amazing Grace'

Canon Nigel Ashworth

¶ *Word and Prayer*

The Reading from Colossians – *Read by Susan Soanes*

Colossians 3.1-4

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

Hymn

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on:

Dance, then...

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die:

Dance, then...

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on:

Dance, then...

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he:

Dance, then...

Sydney Carter

Gospel Reading *read by Sarah Johnston*

Sarah
All

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

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

³¹ Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with^[d] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Again he said, ⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Sarah
All

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

Parables of the Kingdom
The Revd Sydwell Isaac

Responding in Faith and Love

The following 'Kyrie' form of prayer is said

Nigel We give thanks for family, community, friends, parents and grandparents.
Today we celebrate Ann and remember that Jesus grew up in an earthly family
with all its goodness and challenges.

Let us confess that we can take the greatest gifts for granted
and seek God's grace afresh:

Nigel Lord God,
our lives are hidden with Christ,
for he has come to share our life.
Forgive us when we do not share our lives with him:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Nigel Lord God,
in faith we look ahead to the time
when all things will be fulfilled.
Forgive us when we forget
how great is your care for all you have made:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Nigel Lord God,
you promise that we too shall
share in Christ's resurrection.
Forgive us for when we fail to grasp
how great is your grace bestowed upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Nigel 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.**

Anthem Choir of St Ann's

The choir have prepared Tomás Luis de Victoria's anthem 'O Quam Gloriosum', words as follow:

O quam gloriosum est regnum,
in quo cum Christo gaudent omnes Sancti!
Amicti stolis albis,
sequuntur Agnum, quocumque ierit.

*[O, how glorious is the kingdom,
in which all the saints rejoice with Christ! Arrayed in white robes,
they follow the Lamb, wherever he goes.]*

Intercession and Collect

Praying for St Ann's

Prayers are led by the Nigel using the following short litany

- Nigel
All
Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God,
your saving power among all peoples.
- Nigel
All
Renew your Church in holiness
and help us to serve you with joy.
- Nigel
All
Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.
- Nigel
All
Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- Nigel
All
Make us instruments of your peace
and let your glory be over all the earth.
- Nigel
All
O Lord God of Israel,
who bestowed such grace on Ann
that her daughter Mary grew up
obedient to your word
and was made ready to be the mother of your Son:
help us to commit all things to your keeping
and grant us the salvation
you promised to your people;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
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

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

Isaac Watts Psalm 90

The Blessing

Nigel God give us grace
to follow his saints
in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father,
the Son
and the Holy Spirit
be among 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.*