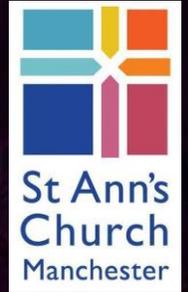


The Promise and the Gift



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 God our Saviour,
look on this wounded world in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Genesis – the grand narrative

Canon Nigel Ashworth

¶ Word and Prayer

The Reading from Genesis – read by Steve Bull

Genesis 22.1-14

^{22.1} After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'² He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.'³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.'⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' ⁸ Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'¹² He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.'¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'^[c]

Steve
All

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

**Abraham and his son Isaac:
what kind of a story is this?**

Canon Nigel Ashworth

Gospel Reading *read by Linda Norris*

Linda
All

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

Matthew 18.1-10

^{18.1} At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' ² He called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

⁶ 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of stumbling-blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling-block comes!

⁸ 'If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰ 'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

Linda
All

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

The Promise and the 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 Ernest Bullock's 'Give us the wings of faith',
a setting of the hymn by the 18th century evangelist Isaac Watts.*

Give us the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

We ask them, whence their victory came.
They, with one united breath
ascribe the conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast;
and following their incarnate God
they reached the promised rest.

Isaac Watts

Responding in Faith and Love

The following 'Kyrie' form of prayer is said

Nigel We give thanks that the faith we have received
embraces all people and prizes children and vulnerable people.

Let us confess that our lives and the life of our world
so often falls short of God's perfect love:

Nigel Lord God, our ways are not your ways
and our thought are not your thoughts:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Nigel Your Son Jesus Christ
became the atoning sacrifice for our sins:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Nigel All have sinned
and fallen short of your glory:
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.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Prayers are led by the Revd Sydwel Isaac.
This response is used*

Sydwel Heal us, Lord,
All **and use us to your glory.**

At the end

Sydwel Merciful Father
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
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

Sydwel 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.

Notices William Jeavons

*William will report on the plans to re-open the
church to the public on Tuesday.*

*He will also sketch out the plans for returning to
public worship next Sunday. The Zoom services
will continue for now alongside a non-musical
Holy Communion service, possibly at 9.00 am.
Details will be set out in this week's Newsletter.*

¶ Ending

Hymn

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings,
give my spirit voice;
tender to me
the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour
shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of his name:
make known his might,
the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure,
from age to age the same;
his holy name,
the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn
wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed,
the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul,
the glories of his word:
firm is his promise,
and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of the Lord
to children's children
and for evermore.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

The Blessing

Sydwell The peace of God
which passes all understanding
keep you hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord;
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.*