

The Promise and the Gift



Sunday Celebration

¶ Gathering

Cover photograph by Ottmar Morett

Sydwel 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

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.

Welsh, William Williams, trans Peter & William Williams

Collect for Today

Sydwel Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All **Amen.**

**Genesis – the grand narrative
courtship, marriage and dynasty**
Canon Nigel Ashworth

¶ Word and Prayer

The Reading from Genesis – read by Andrew Kyle

Genesis 24.1-4, 10-44, 61-67

^{24.1} Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, 'Put your hand under my thigh ³ and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred and get a wife for my son Isaac.'

¹⁰ The servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all kinds of choice gifts from his master; and he set out and went to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water; it was towards evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the girl to whom I shall say, "Please offer your jar that I may drink", and who shall say, "Drink, and I will water your camels"—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.'

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The girl was very fair to look upon, a virgin whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, 'Please let me sip a little water from your jar.' ¹⁸ 'Drink, my lord,' she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.' ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold nose-ring weighing a half-shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, 'Tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?' ²⁴ She said to him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.' ²⁵ She added, 'We have plenty of straw and fodder and a place to spend the night.' ²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshipped the LORD ²⁷ and said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness towards my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the way to the house of my master's kin.'

²⁸ Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. ²⁹ Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran out to the man, to the spring. ³⁰ As soon as he had seen the nose-ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, 'Thus the man spoke to me', he went to the man; and there he was, standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹ He said, 'Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside when I have prepared the house and a place for the camels?' ³² So the man came into the house; and Laban unloaded the camels, and gave him straw and fodder for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³ Then food was set before him to eat; but he said, 'I will not eat until I have told my errand.' He said, 'Speak on.'

³⁴ So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son." ³⁹ I said to my master, "Perhaps the woman will not follow me." ⁴⁰ But he said to me, "The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you and make your way successful. You shall get a wife for my son from my kindred, from my father's house. ⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my kindred; even if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath."

⁴² 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³ I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son."

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³ Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

The laughter of Isaac

Canon Nigel Ashworth

Gospel Reading *read by Jennifer Frew*

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

Matthew 11. 27-30

Jesus said, ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Jennifer
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 Herbert Sumsion's 'O Lord, thou hast searched me out',
words taken from Psalm 139.*

O lord, thou hast searched me and known me.
Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thoughts long before.

Thou art about my path, and about my bed: and spiest out all my ways.
For lo there is not a word in my tongue, but thou O Lord knowest it altogether.

Thou hast fashioned me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me; I cannot attain unto it.

Whither shall I go then from thy spirit? or whither shall I go then from thy presence?
If I climb up into heaven, thou art there: if I go down into hell, thou art there also.

If I take the wings of the morning, and remain in the uttermost depths of the sea;
Even there also shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Responding in Faith and Love

The following 'Kyrie' form of prayer is said

- Sydwell** We give thanks that Jesus invites us to receive rest.
- Let us confess our need to receive his peace and open our hearts to his grace:
- Sydwell** Lord God, so many are weary and carrying heavy burdens:
Lord, have mercy.
- All** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Sydwell** Your Son Jesus Christ teaches us to take his yoke upon us and learn from him:
Christ, have mercy.
- All** **Christ, have mercy.**
- Sydwell** He is gentle and humble in heart, we so often fail to walk with him:
- All** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Sydwell** 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 Fr Keith Henshall.

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

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone,
nor e'en the praising heart,
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part:

Praise in the common things of life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.

Fill every part of me with praise:
let all my being speak
of thee and of thy love, O Lord
poor though I be and weak.

So shall no part of day or night
unblest or common be;
but all my life, in every step,
be fellowship with thee.

Horatius Bonar

The Blessing

Sydwell The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace;
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.*