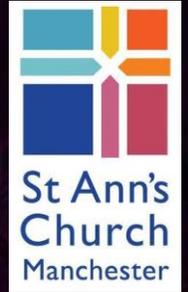


The Promise and the Gift



Sunday Celebration

¶ 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

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly:
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
the Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!

George Herbert

The Collect

Nigel God of glory, the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside all that prevents us
from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All **Amen.**

**Genesis – the Grand Narrative:
Joseph and his brothers**
Canon Nigel Ashworth

¶ Word and Prayer

The Reading from Genesis – Read by Sarah Johnston

Genesis 45.1-15

¹ Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Sarah
All

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

Recognising God’s deeper purpose:

Canon Nigel Ashworth

Gospel Reading *read by Roy Needham*

Roy
All

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

John 7.25-31

²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, 'Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill?' ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? ²⁷ Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.' ²⁸ Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, 'You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. ²⁹ I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.' ³⁰ Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, 'When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?'

Roy
All

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

Who is the Messiah?

The Revd Sydwel Isaac

Affirmation of Faith

Nigel
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 the anthem 'Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake'
by Richard Farrant. The text is as follows:*

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past,
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart
before thee, now and evermore.
Amen.

Lidley's Prayers 1566

Intercessions

Prayers are led by Ottmar Morett. The following response is used:

Ottmar Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

at the end

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

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

All are invited to share the peace together.

¶ 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

Nigel The peace of God
which passes all understanding
keep your 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

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