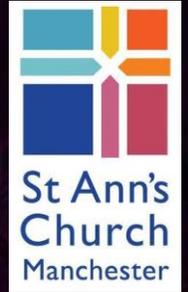


The Promise and the Gift



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

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy host above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley

The Collect

Sydwell God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

¶ Word and Prayer

The Reading from Genesis – Read by Michael Johnson

Genesis 50.15-26

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's household; and Joseph lived for one hundred and ten years. ²³ Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph's knees.

²⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am about to die; but God will surely come to you, and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.' ²⁵ So Joseph made the Israelites swear, saying, 'When God comes to you, you shall carry up my bones from here.' ²⁶ And Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

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

Genesis – the closing of the Grand Narrative: Reconciliation and the Future

The Revd Sydwel Isaac

Gospel Reading *read by Sue Watson*

Sue
All

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

John 15.1-17

Jesus said, ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sue
All

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

A Community of Love

The Revd Sydwel Isaac

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 the anthem 'Jesu, dulcis memoria' by Tomás Luis de Victoria, text and translation as follows:

Jesu dulcis memoria
dans vera cordis gaudia:
sed super mel et omnia
ejus dulcis præsentia.

*[Jesus, sweet remembrance,
granting the heart its true joys,
but above honey and all things
is his sweet presence.]*

Intercessions

*Prayers are led by Stacy Fox-Manning.
The following response is used:*

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

at the end

Stacy 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

Sydwel introduces the Peace and says

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

All are invited to share the peace together.

¶ Ending

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte

The Blessing

Sydwell The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself;
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service;
and 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

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