

Jubilee for the Earth



¶ Gathering

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

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou for ever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness...

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness...

Thomas Chisholm

Collect

Sydwell Maker of heaven and earth,
who shaped the creation
that we might delight in the power of your love
and thrive in the heart of all you have made:
grant us determination and skill
to care for the whole world
and the grace to share its goodness
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

¶ Word

The Reading from Isaiah

Read by Rachel Jackson

Isaiah 55.6-11

- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
- ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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

Anthem Choir of St Ann's

*The choir have prepared the anthem
'Beati quorum via' by Charles Villiers Stanford.*

The words, given below, are from Psalm 119 verse 1.

Beati quorum via integra est,
Qui ambulant in lege Domini.
*[Blessed are those who go
the way of integrity,
who walk the path of God's law.]*

Psalm 119.1

Gospel Reading *read by the Revd Sydwel Isaac*

Sydwel
All

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

Matthew 20.1-16

Jesus said to his disciples:¹ 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

¹³ But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Sydwel
All

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

The Last and the First
Canon Nigel Ashworth

¶ Prayer

Video

Praying for Creation partly based in Psalm 104



Anthem Choir of St Ann's

*The choir have prepared the anthem
'God be in my head' by Walford Davies*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Intercession and Lord's Prayer

*Sydwell leads us in prayer for the care and stewardship of Creation.
Our intercession is brought together in the words of the Lord's Prayer.*

Sydwell Creator of Life,
at your word, the Earth brought forth plants
yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit.
The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life.
The eyes of all looked to you to satisfy the needs of every living thing.
And throughout time the Earth has sustained life.

We thank you, Lord,
that everything you made is good.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Sydwell Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth,
you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.
In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath;
a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given;
a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption;
a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production.
But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits.
Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle
of production and consumption are exhausting our world.
The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes,
the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify.
We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath,
and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

We thank you, Lord,
that, even so, your love sustains us.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Sydwell During this Season of Creation,
we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet.
Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence.
Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given.
Teach us to be satisfied with enough.
And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth,
send your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

We thank you, Lord,
that you hold our future in your hands.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Sydwell Gathering all our prayers together
and praying for everyone who is on our hearts,
including our friends Bill Smith and Helen Wyre,
we say together 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

Nigel introduces the Peace and says

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

All are invited to share the peace together.

¶ Ending

Hymn

O worship the King all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end!
Our maker, defender, Redeemer, and friend.

O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

Robert Grant Psalm 104

The Blessing

Sydwell May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessings upon all things created,
and upon you his children;
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.*