

# The Times and the Seasons



## ¶ 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

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
ye soldiers of the cross!  
Lift high his royal banner,  
it must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory  
his army he shall lead,  
till every foe is vanquished,  
and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
the solemn watchword hear;  
if while ye sleep he suffers,  
away with shame and fear.  
Where'er ye meet with evil,  
within you or without,  
charge for the God of battles,  
and put the foe to rout.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
Stand in his strength alone;  
the arm of flesh will fail you,  
ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the gospel armour,  
each piece put on with prayer;  
when duty calls or danger  
be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
the strife will not be long;  
this day the noise of battle,  
the next the victor's song.  
To him that overcometh  
a crown of life shall be;  
he with the King of glory  
shall reign eternally.

*George Duffield*

### Collect

Sydwell Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All **Amen.**

## ¶ Word and Prayer

### Reading from the Letter to the Thessalonians

*Read by Helen Lacy*

#### *1 Thessalonians 5.1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

<sup>4</sup> But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup> for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Helen  
All

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

### The Times and the Seasons

*Canon Nigel Ashworth*

## 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*

## Gospel Reading from St Matthew

*Read by the Revd Sydwel Isaac*

Sydwel Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Matthew 25.14-30*

Jesus said to his disciples,<sup>14</sup> ‘The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

<sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’’ <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’’ <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’’ <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’’ <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’’ <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, ‘‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’’

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

## Parable of the Talents

*Canon Nigel Ashworth*

## Anthem

*Choir of St Ann's*

*The Choir have prepared 'Sicut Cervus' by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, a setting of the first verse of Psalm 42*

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,  
ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.

*[As the deer longs for the water brooks,  
so longs my soul for you, O God.]*

*Psalm 42.1*

## Intercession and Lord's Prayer

*Led by Roy Needham*

*The following response is incorporated into the intercessions*

Roy  
All

Giver of all good gifts,  
**hear us and help us live to your glory.**

*At the end*

Roy  
All

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

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

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;  
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound,  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,  
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along:  
for love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

*H W Baker Psalm 150*

### The Blessing

Sydwell The God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace  
in believing;  
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