



THY KINGDOM COME

## ¶ Gathering

Nigel Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Nigel Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## Hymn

Lord, make us servants of your peace:  
where there is hate, may we sow love;  
where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
where all is gloom, may we sow hope  
where all is night, may we sow light;  
where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
to be consoled, but to console,  
nor look to understanding hearts,  
but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return,  
but seek to live unselfishly,  
for in our giving we receive,  
and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying we live, and are reborn  
through death's dark night to endless day;  
Lord, make us servants of your peace  
to wake at last in heaven's light.

*James Quinn SJ after Francis of Assisi*



## Collect for Today

Nigel God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us  
he may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

## ¶ Word and Prayer

### The Proclamation to Athens

*Canon Nigel Ashworth*

### The Reading from Acts – read by Phil Whitaker

#### *Acts 17.22-31*

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.”’

‘What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things’.

<sup>26</sup> ‘From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”’

<sup>29</sup> ‘Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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

## Hearing from Christians in Education

*Susan Soanes  
Elizabeth Agbettoh*

### **Gospel Reading** *read by Sarah Whitaker*

Sarah  
All

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

#### *John 14.15-21*

Jesus said to his disciples:<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

<sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Sarah  
All

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

### **Address**

*The Revd Sydwell Isaac*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**Sydwell** Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God.

**All** **Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*cf Philipians 2.6-11*

## **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.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*Prayers are led by Anne Bithell. This response is used*

Sydwell  
All Lord, in your mercy,  
**Fill our hearts with joy.**

*At the end*

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

## ¶ Ending

### Hymn

All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light, and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
one and all  
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Robert Bridges, based on words by Joachim Neander*

## **The Blessing**

**Nigel** God, who through the resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ  
has given us the victory,  
give you joy and peace in your faith;  
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 music is 'Rejoice, the Lord is King' by David Willcocks.*

*Whilst the music is being played please get your coffees and come back to the screen so we can greet one another.*