

# 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

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desires  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.

*John Greenleaf Whittier*

### Collect for Today

Nigel God of truth,  
help us to keep your law of love  
and to walk in ways of wisdom,  
that we may find true life  
in Jesus Christ your Son.  
All **Amen.**

## ¶ Word and Prayer

### The Reading from Genesis – read by Durham Grigg

#### *Genesis 18.1-15*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, “My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10</sup> Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

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

### Genesis - the grand narrative

*Canon Nigel Ashworth*



## **Gospel Reading** *read by Anne Bithell*

Anne  
All

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

### *Matthew 9.35-10.8*

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

<sup>10.1</sup> Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Anne  
All

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

## **The Promise and the Gift**

*Canon Nigel Ashworth*

## **Anthem Choir of St Ann's**

*The choir have prepared the familiar 'Jesus bleibet meine Freude', a chorus by JS Bach (BWV 147). The translation of the text is given here.*

Jesus shall always be my joy,  
my heart's comfort and essence.  
Jesus shall fend off all suffering,  
he is the strength of my life,  
the delight and sunshine of my eyes,  
my soul's treasure and wonder.  
Therefore I will not let Jesus go  
away from my heart and sight.

## **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*

## Responding in Faith and Love

*The following 'Kyrie' form of prayer is said*

**Nigel** We give thanks for the Good News of God's free gift:  
"The Kingdom of Heaven has come near".  
Let us seek the Lord and turn to him in faith and love:

**Nigel** Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Nigel** Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All** **Christ, have mercy.**

**Nigel** Most Holy Spirit, you give us life and peace:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Nigel** The Lord have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
heal us by his Spirit,  
and bring us to everlasting life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Nigel 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 Fr Keith. This response is used*

Keith Lord, hear us.  
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the end*

Keith Merciful Father  
All **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.**

## The Notices *William Jeavons*

*William will speak about our plans to re-open the church.*



## ¶ 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.

### Upper voices

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.

### All

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

Nigel

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side  
and guide you in truth and peace;  
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 service concludes with a voluntary played  
by Simon Passmore.*

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