

**Opening Hymn: Thou whose almighty word**

Thou whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray  
let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move o'er the waters' face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.

Blessèd and holy Three  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide  
let there be light.

*Moscow 466 NEH*

**The Collect**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8: 1-4a, 8-12**

A reading from the book of the prophet Nehemiah

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

**The New Testament Reading: Colossians 3: 12–17**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**The Gospel Reading: St Matthew 24: 30–35**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**The Creed:**

Let us declare our faith in the living 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.**

**Offertory Hymn: We have a Gospel to proclaim**

We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for men in all the earth,  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall,  
but in a stable dark and dim:  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save,  
in lonely suffering on the cross:  
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,  
empty the tomb, for he was free:  
he broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified:  
He sends his Spirit on his Church,  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim;  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

**The Anthem: Teach me, O Lord**

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end.

*Thomas Attwood (1765–1838)*  
*Psalm 119: 33*

**Hymn: Go forth and tell!**

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take:  
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King,  
that all the world his glorious praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call;  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!  
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and King, for evermore.

*Woodlands 477ii AM*