

Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet

10 October 2022

Welcome

Song: All creatures of our God and king
Lift up your voices and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia

Thou burning with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in heaven a long
Alleluia, alleluia

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice
Ye light of evening find a voice
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Thou flowing water pure and clear
Make music for thy Lord to hear
Alleluia, alleluia

Thou fire so masterful and bright
That gives to man both warmth and light
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Reading: Mark 4.26-29

²⁶ Jesus went on to say, "The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. ²⁷ He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. ²⁸ The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the head, and finally the head full of grain. ²⁹ When the grain is ripe, the man starts cutting it with his sickle, because harvest time has come.

*Song: Let all creation sing before the Lord
and every nation of the earth rejoice,
let all the trees lift a shout of joy
for the Lord is King.
Let the deep waters of the sea resound,
let every mountain, every hill sing out,
let all the fields make a joyful sound
for the Lord is King.*

Mighty river, barren desert,
howling wind and stormy weather,
every canyon every valley,
sing your praise and give him glory.
Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name.

Every star and constellation,
every wonder in the heavens,
silver moon and supernova,
sing a shining hallelujah!
Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name.

Honey bees and weeping willows,
grizzly bears and armadillos,
every narwhal and sea otter,
every son and every daughter.
Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name.

La la la la la la - All the earth, praise the
Lord
La la la la la la - All the earth, praise the
Lord

Harvest collection for HLAB

Song: Freely we have received,
so freely we're going to give.
All we have comes from your generosity,
so we're going to live:
freely.

All age Craft – Growing seed

Song: 1 All who are thirsty, come to the Lord,
all who are hungry, feed on his word;
buy without paying food without price,
eat with thanksgiving God's sacrifice.

2 Why spend your money, yet have no bread;
why work for nothing? Trust God instead!
He will provide you richest of food:
come to the waters, drink what is good.
All who are thirsty come...

3 Call on God's mercy while he is near,
turn from your evil, come without fear;
ask him for pardon, grace will abound!
This is the moment he can be found.
All who are thirsty come...

4 Where once were briars, flowers will grow,
where lives were barren, rivers will flow:
praise to our Saviour, grace and renown
ours is the blessing, his be the crown!
All who are thirsty come...

Sermon: God is at work

Two years ago, the school gave our boys sunflower seeds to plant. In great enthusiasm we planted in what we thought would be a great spot, sheltered from the wind, in a lovely big pot at the bottom of the garden. We even remembered to water the seeds. Then one day before they were even ting green stalks, we discovered the pot turned over, the soil all over the ground and the seeds gobbled. Now we had had problems with foxes, so we blamed the fox. We had given up all hope, when one day we spotted one sunflower had grown. It was beautiful. When it died and dried out, we discovered the seeds hidden in the old flower head.

I did not expect anything would grow from these seeds, but it was strongly suggested to me that we must keep the seeds and plant them next year. And we did. Aren't they lovely?!

It seems odd to me that from an ordinary looking seed comes anything, let alone a strong thick stem and such magnificent and proud flowers. We had planted the seeds in soil, we had watered them, and they grew. We know how seeds grow, but isn't truly marvellous that they do?

Homeless Action in Barnet's aim is to be a place of change. When Jesus told this tiny parable, he told us about a kingdom of change. The kingdom of God is wherever God is present. What is his kingdom like? Well, his kingdom is all about change - where seeds become mighty trees, yeast grows into beautiful bread, and death turns into life. The kingdom is a place of change, but how? The farmer just goes about his daily life, he plants, he sleeps, he gets up ... he sleeps, he gets up, he sleeps, he gets up ... The farmer is patient. We too need to be patient, waiting for the transformation to come. Not patient and doing nothing, not putting up with atrocities and waiting for change, but we need to be patient to see kingdom change.

Real change, transformation takes time. But how does the seed grow? By the power of God. God who made the world, who created you and me, the same God who created with a big bang, does not limit the power of creation to a one-time event. But again and again, the power of change is active even if hidden for now. Homeless Action in Barnet is a place of change for rough sleepers in our community. For some change is having a hot meal, and some fresh clothes. For others change takes much longer, and great patience but change is coming, and God is at work.

Despite our best efforts, some of our sunflowers were attacked. Not as we discover by a fox but by a cheeky squirrel instead. As sad as it was to see sunflowers struck down by saboteur squirrels, it doesn't change the fact that they grew and that of the ones left, we'll be able to collect more seeds and grow sunflowers every year. As Jesus spoke of a

seed, he spoke about everyday life for his audience of Palestinian farmers. But he also spoke of a promise of change, of a seed called the messiah. A seed who wasn't quite ready yet but would change the world. When Jesus died, he too was buried in the soil. And in that dark and mysterious place, transformation was coming. For just as a seed becomes a tree, and yeast makes bread grow, so Jesus rose from death to new life. Jesus calls all of us to be part of his kingdom. His new life is not the end, it is only the beginning of the transformation of the world. Sunflower by sunflower, tin by tin all by God's power.

Prayers for the world

Ukrainian Lord's prayer

Notices

Song: 1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Blessing