

*Christ Church New Southgate
& Friern Barnet*

11 September 2022

Welcome

Song: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor
To his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
You behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Song: Et ti tobi
The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

*How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God*

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names (how great is our
God, sing with me)
Worthy of our praise (how great is our God,
and all will see)
My heart will sing
How great is our God
You're the name above all names (how great
is our God, sing with me)
You are worthy of our praise (how great is
our God, and all will see)
And my heart will sing
How great is our God

Reading: Luke 15

15 One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, ² the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" ³ So Jesus told them this parable:
⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. ⁵ When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders ⁶ and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' ⁷ In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents

than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.

The Lost Coin

⁸“Or suppose a woman who has ten silver coins loses one of them—what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house, and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. ⁹When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together, and says to them, ‘I am so happy I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents.”

- 1 The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E’en for His own name’s sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God’s house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Video: Gochatter – life of Queen Elizabeth

Coin craft: Take a coin, paper and a crayon and make a pattern around the edge of your piece of paper, or all over it and write a prayer thanking God for our Queen or praying for those who are seeking God at this time.

Parable discussion on the lost coin

Sermon: A diligent woman, Ruth Moriarty

Today we have a story of a determined woman. A woman who devotes all her time to seeking God, spends all her energy looking for what is lost and a woman who delights in pure joy at finding the kingdom of God.

In her Christmas Day address back in 2000, Queen Elizabeth said: For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead to my life.

One of the teachings that Jesus shared was this little parable about a woman looking for a lost coin. He told it to a bunch of old religious men, who were very concerned about who he was hanging out with and in particular who he was eating with. They were not clean, not proper, from the wrong side of the hill. They didn’t approve of tax collectors, people with dodgy jobs or incomes and those whom polite society ignored.

But Jesus cared. Jesus cared about all people in all places. Jesus wanted to share food with less popular people, he wanted to spend time with those everyone else avoided. Why? Because he is announcing the kingdom of God that looks different. In the kingdom of the world, money, power and fame matter. In the kingdom of God, who you are matters. In the kingdom of God, poverty, oppression and obscurity are welcome. In the kingdom of God everyone who has been shoved down, is lifted up. Those who weep, laugh, mourning turn to joy.

In the Queen’s 1952 Christmas day address she said: Pray for me that God might give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making and that I may faithfully serve him and you all the days of my life. The promises she made were to:

Govern appropriately
Maintain justice
Profess the gospel of Christ.

Above all we recognise her duty and diligence in service, service to govern, see justice and proclaim Christ.

Just like a woman who seeks for a lost coin, she sought and never gave up. She rolled up her sleeves, and pulled out a dustpan and brush. She cleaned and brushed and never gave up. She also turned a lamp on. A light to see and to guide her service. And her diligence paid off, she found her coin and found such joy through seeking and finding it. The kingdom of God is just like that, whenever and however we seek god, we must do it diligently and with duty and be determined to see a life dedicated to searching for God.

For God invites us all who seek him to join him at his table, a table open for all – the table of the king. At this table, no grumpy old religious people are allowed, only those who are seeking God, seeking God like they've lost a precious coin and will not give up till they find it. And when they do, the whole of heaven celebrates.

Queen Elizabeth was an example to us all, royalist or not, of a woman of faith in Christ seeking to serve God faithfully. The woman with the lost coin, is an image for us all – his church, his bride, and the light that he gives us to seek God.

At the coronation, Elizabeth wearing the most expensive jewels in the world, sitting in Westminster Abbey was given a simple gift: a bible. She was given it with these words:

We present you with this book the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom, this is the royal law. These are the lively oracles of God.

Just as the woman searched with the light of a lamp, so we all can search for God using the bible. Psalm 119 says His word is a lamp unto our feet. May our tribute in mourning be a life lived searching for God with his word as our light for only then do we find true joy and a place at the table of the king of all kings.

Prayers: Time to light candle in memory of Queen and pray for those who need to know God's light

Song: The Lord Almighty reigns

Prayers for world

God of the lost,
open our eyes to see the world as you do.
Forgive us when we fail to see the lost.
Help us to look for those who need your love,
and give us the courage not only to offer them signs of your love
but, by our actions and words, to share your love with them.

Amen.

Song: This little light of mine

Blessing

Song: The Kingdom is yours
Blessed are the ones who do not bury
All the broken pieces of their heart
Blessed are the tears of all the weary
Pouring like a sky of falling stars

Blessed are the wounded ones in mourning
Brave enough to show the Lord their scars
Blessed are the hurts that are not hidden
Open to the healing touch of God

*The kingdom is yours, the kingdom is yours
Hold on a little more, this is not the end
Hope is in the Lord, keep your eyes on him*

Blessed are the ones who walk in kindness
Even in the face of great abuse

Blessed are the deeds that go unnoticed
Serving with unguarded gratitude

Blessed are the ones who fight for justice
Longing for the coming day of peace
Blessed is the soul that thirsts for
righteousness
Welcoming the last, the lost, the least

Blessed are the ones who suffer violence
And still have strength to love their enemies
Blessed is the faith of those who persevere
Though they fall, they'll never know defeat