

*Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern Barnet
13 June 2021*

Welcome Christ Church – online, at church,
you are all warmly welcome to gather to
praise God this morning

Colours Song

We're amazed by the blue... [sea/sky?]
And grateful for the white... [snow/polar
bear?]
Help us care for the green... [grass/jungles?]
And look after the black... [bears/panthers?]
We're amazed by the red...
[flowers/volcanoes?]
And grateful for the grey... [whales/koala?]
Help us care for the pink... [coral/pigs?]
And look after the brown... [wrens/soil?]

*God you made them all,
and you made us too,
what a mighty God,
we will worship You.
Give us hearts that love,
give us hands that care,
for the world you made
for us all to share.*

Written by the Burr family, used with
permission.

Reading: Psalm 42

As a deer longs for a stream of cool water,
so I long for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

³My tears have been my food
day and night,

while people say to me all day long,
'Where is your God?'

⁴These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:

**how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty
One^[d]**

**with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.**

⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?

**Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.**

⁷Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
**all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.**

⁸By day the Lord directs his love,
**at night his song is with me –
a prayer to the God of my life.**

¹¹Put your hope in God,
**for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.**

Prayer

Praying with Dice

Roll a dice, if lands on an even number say a
thank you prayer to God for something or
someone. If it lands on an odd number ask
God for help for someone or something.
Give it few goes!

Reading 1 Samuel 16.1-13 read by Jane Gibbins

16 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will
you go on grieving over Saul? I have rejected
him as king of Israel. But now get some
olive oil and go to Bethlehem, to a man
named Jesse, because I have chosen one of
his sons to be king."

²"How can I do that?" Samuel asked. "If
Saul hears about it, he will kill me!"

The Lord answered, "Take a calf with you and say that you are there to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will tell you what to do. You will anoint as king the man I tell you to."

⁴ Samuel did what the Lord told him to do and went to Bethlehem, where the city leaders came trembling to meet him and asked, "Is this a peaceful visit, seer?"

⁵ "Yes," he answered. "I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me." He also told Jesse and his sons to purify themselves, and he invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Jesse's son Eliab and said to himself, "This man standing here in the Lord's presence is surely the one he has chosen." ⁷ But the Lord said to him, "Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is. I have rejected him, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart."

⁸ Then Jesse called his son Abinadab and brought him to Samuel. But Samuel said, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen him either." ⁹ Jesse then brought Shammah. "No, the Lord hasn't chosen him either," Samuel said. ¹⁰ In this way Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel. And Samuel said to him, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen any of these." ¹¹ Then he asked him, "Do you have any more sons?"

Jesse answered, "There is still the youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep."

"Tell him to come here," Samuel said. "We won't offer the sacrifice until he comes." ¹² So Jesse sent for him. He was a handsome, healthy young man, and his eyes sparkled. The Lord said to Samuel, "This is the one—anooint him!" ¹³ Samuel took the olive oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. Immediately the spirit of

the Lord took control of David and was with him from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

Activity: Crossword

Did you hear all the story? Have a go at this crossword and see !

Cross word on final page

Sermon : God looks at the heart

Choosing a king is hard work. The first one I chose, the one I thought would be great turned out to be a nitwit. I remember the day I saw Saul – he literally stood head and shoulders above everyone else. It was like there was a big arrow pointing to him from the sky saying – this is the one. But he got swayed by power and riches and wound up not trusting God. And to be honest I was gutted, I felt like I was responsible for a terrible mess. I had always made wise decisions in the past, what on earth had gone wrong?

The Lord pulled me up short, he said 'come on let's crack on and find a new king. It's time.' He sent me to Bethlehem. Have you ever heard of it? Bethlehem back of beyond, a dusty outpost that no-one of any significance would ever come from. It was miles and miles from where I lived in the north. I am a high court official, and one of the downsides to that is that I can't sneak around. I'm noticed wherever I go, I get papped, the news goes down the line – Samuel's visiting ... I wonder what is going on.

So the Lord and I agreed on a ruse, not a lie, but not the whole truth. God is more cunning than you might think. I was to make a sacrifice – common for a prophet like me, and while I was there I'd anoint the new king.

Nevertheless by the time I reached Bethlehem, the elders were already at the gates trembling, worried that trouble was a foot. And of course it was. Saul was still king, and he had gotten pretty violent of late. If he heard that I was going to find a new king, he would be furious. I would be a traitor and that means only one thing – off with your head.

As I sat down with Jesse, he poured me some tea and called his eldest son in – Eliab. What a fine young man he was, tall, good looking, and built like a tank. This man would make a great looking king, this was the sort of man who people would follow.

Around here, what you look like matters. They say it's the optics. Does he look clever, strong, wise? Or does he look scruffy, underfed and weedy? I asked the lord – is it Eliab, and he said no. I'm not looking for tall and good looking. This isn't a dating agency; I'm looking for a king whose heart is mine.

Then it turned into a bit of a fairytale, 'have you got anymore sons Jesse?' I asked. Seven brothers filed in one by one. It wasn't any of them. 'Have you forgotten anyone Jesse?' And like Cinderella being called from the kitchen to meet her prince, David walked in and I knew it was him. This is the one Sam – anoint David. As I looked at David, I saw he was young, he was a shepherd, and he was not an obvious choice but he was at least handsome and charming.

And yet the Lord doesn't make decisions based on our reasons, he has his own. We look at the outside, but he looks at the heart. He looks upon Bethlehem and sees a birthplace for a king, he looks upon the young and sees faithful hearts, he looks upon outsiders and sees his godly leaders.

God's wisdom is based on love, everything he does is about love. His love means that he doesn't look at us and ignore us. He doesn't look at the world and forget us, no God is

always loving, always kind, always compassionate to us his people.

But he is interested in the state of our hearts. He wants to know our character, our being, the core of self – are we totally devoted to God? Is our heart set on and in God? How do we know what a person's heart is? By how much love we can see in their lives. In David I saw a young man devoted to his sheep, to lead was to know his sheep and they knew his voice. I saw a man who knew to lead was to lead offering his life to protect his sheep.

The Lord challenged me to look with his sight, not my own.

He challenged me to judge a heart and not appearances.

He asked me to see the world from his view, from his wisdom of love.

My prayer is that I will always look for God's wisdom of love, in others and in my own life.

Activity: Self-portraits

Draw a simple line picture of your face or a smiley face. On the lines write down all that is on your heart and include some of God's promises to you.

- God loves me completely
- The Lord is my shepherd, he leads me and guides me
- The joy of the Lord is my strength

Lord's prayer with actions

Our Father in heaven,
arms up

hallowed be your name,
make banner shape

your kingdom come,
hands to side

**your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

palms down & up

Give us today our daily bread.

Hands together

Forgive us our sins

brush right hand

as we forgive those who sin against us.

brush left hand

Lead us not into temptation

fist to chest across

but deliver us from evil.

Other fist to across chest

For the kingdom,

arms wide, palms to side

the power,

fists lifted

and the glory are yours

make sign of rain with fingers

now and for ever.

Right hand pointing, left hand spiral finger out

Amen.

Hands clap above head

Song: Take heart, dear sisters,
fear not, dear brothers,
all you who yearn for the Lord;
the night is long
and the fight is hard,
but know Christ has already won.
And though we see the sun go dark
and the moon give up its light,
we'll know, when all the heavens quake
and stars fall from the sky:

*He'll come in glory, glory,
riding on the clouds.*

*The night shall flee,
and every knee
will bow before his majesty and power.*

Take heart through trials,
fear not, though fires may burn,
you shall overcome.
The pain of labour
will soon be over,
our cry will turn to a song.
His word is true, our hope is sure,
and the Spirit holds us fast;
our waiting hearts will find their joy
when Christ returns at last.

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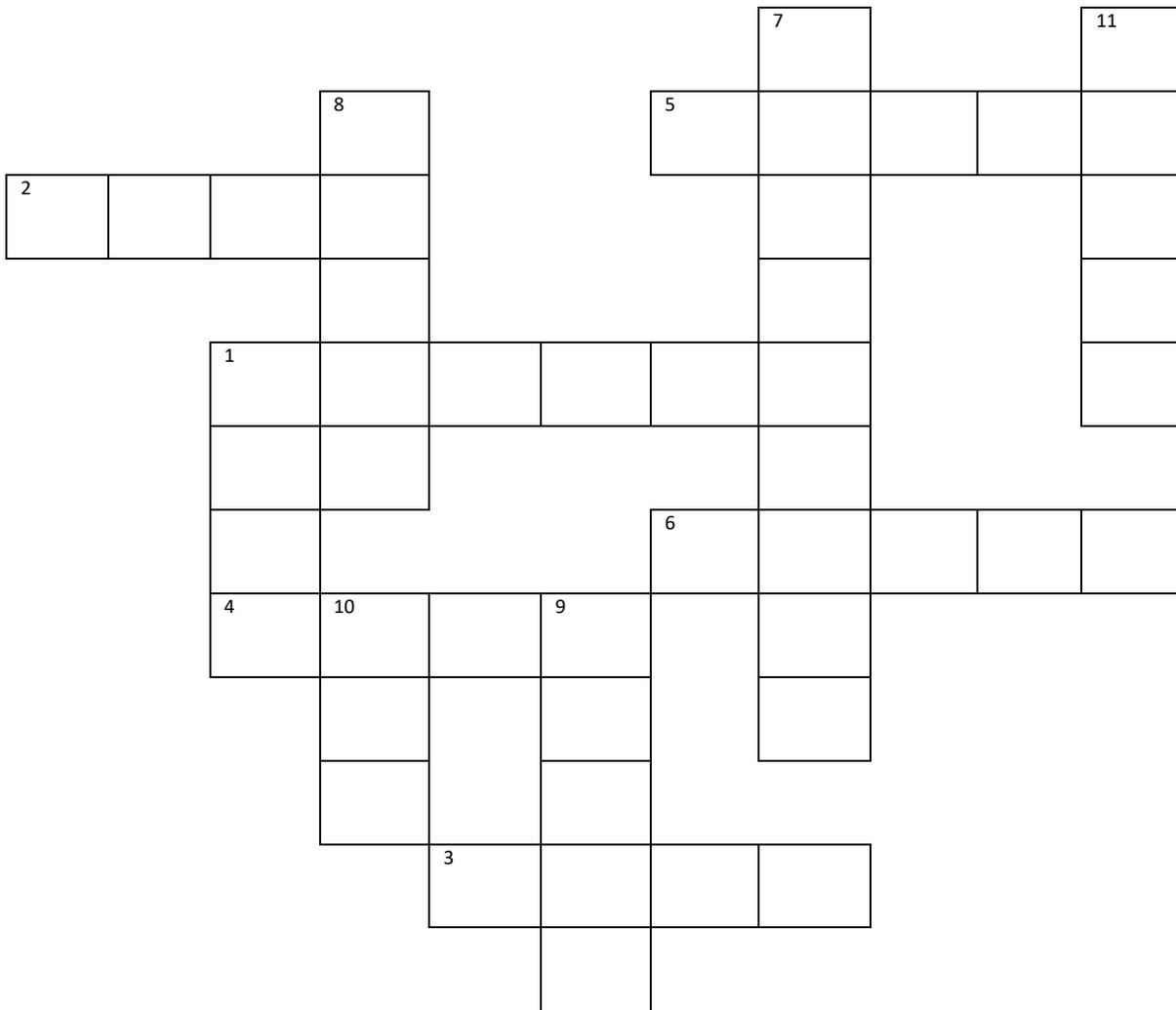
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Blessing

**May the Father bless our hearts with
wisdom and love
May the Son lead us and guide us
May the Spirit anoint us to share God's
love**

David chosen to be King

I Samuel 16.1-13



Across

- 1 The old prophet S _ _ _ _ _
- 2 The first king of Israel S _ _ _ _
- 3 Royal K _ _ _ _
- 4 Another name for God L _ _ _ _
- 5 David's Dad J _ _ _ _ _
- 6 Animals David looked after S _ _ _ _ _

Down

- 7 Place where David lived B _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 8 Jesse's first son E _ _ _ _ _
- 9 Name of God's chosen king D _ _ _ _ _
- 10 Anointed with O _ _ _
- 11 God looks at the H _ _ _ _ _