

*Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern
Barnet*

13 March 2022

Welcome

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:

**that I may dwell
in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.**

Who is it that you seek?

We seek the Lord our God.

Do you seek Him with all your heart?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your soul?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your mind?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your
strength?

Amen. Christ, have mercy.

To whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life,
and we have believed and have**

**come to know
that You are the Holy One of God.
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory.**

Apostles Creed

ALL: We believe in God,

(Point up)

the Father

(Cross two fingers from both hands)

almighty,

(Raise two fists)

who sent

(Point a finger)

Jesus

(Touch each palm)

into

(praying hands)

the world.

(raise hands to side)

He came as a baby

(rock a baby)

Born of the holy spirit

Was crucified,

(Lift arms to side)

died

(Drop head)

And was buried.

(Curl up)

On the third day

(Hold 3 fingers up)

He rose again from the dead

(Raise arm up)

He ascended into heaven

(Lift both arms above head)

Where he prays for us continually.

(Praying hands)

Praise the lord

(Lift hands up high)

Halleluia!

Song: E ti tobi to Oluwa (how great
you are Lord in Yoruba)

Prayer

Song: In the name of God the Father,

Reading: Psalm 27 read by Rachael
Akujor

Psalm 27 Of David.

1 The Lord is my light and my
salvation—

whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my
life—

of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked advance against me
to devour[a] me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

3 Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

4 One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of
the Lord

all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble

he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his
sacred tent

and set me high upon a rock.

6 Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround
me;

at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with
shouts of joy;

I will sing and make music to
the Lord.

7 Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.

8 My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in
anger;

you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

10 Though my father and mother
forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.

11 Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

12 Do not turn me over to the desire of
my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against
me,
spouting malicious accusations.

13 I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

Song: Build my life

Prayer

God the Father, we confess the times
we have been impatient with you,
with others, with ourselves and with
those we love.

God the Son, we confess the times
when we have not searched for you in
our hearts and in the beauty of the
world around us.

God the Holy Spirit, we confess the
times we have not trusted in you and
have allowed fear to rule our lives.
Holy and most merciful God, forgive
us.

Amen.

God our Father,
give us grateful hearts.
God our Father,
help us in the dark times.
God our Father,
help us trust you.
God our Father
give us patience
to wait with you.
Amen.

The Lord is our light and our
salvation:
come seek his face.
Your face, Lord, do I seek.

The Lord will hide us in his shelter:
come seek his face.
Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Wait for the Lord,
be strong, take courage:
come seek his face.
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Amen.

Song: This little light of mine

All age: Hide and seek game

Sermon: Seek God and be found in
him

Hide and seek is a brilliant game. It's fun to hide, it's fun to seek. I can't play the game very well at all because I end up giggling and giving away my location. Notice that the game is called hide and seek not called hide and look. If we look for something, we might casually look around the room. If you've lost something you might say: I've looked everywhere, I can't find my glasses until your friend says – have you looked on your head? Seeking is different to looking. Seeking something or someone

is a determined search. A chef seeks the best ingredients, a lover seeks a connection with someone special, a campaign group seeks change. In hide and seek, seeking is looking until you have found a person in the game. And then together you keep on seeking the others until everyone is found and the fun starts all over again.

It is a skill to find people when you are playing hide and seek. It's a good idea to walk around each room carefully, searching in every place before moving on to the next room.

When we seek God's face as Psalm 27 suggests, we are looking to find God, to find his presence. David has sought God in his house and the temple (v4), in his dwelling, tabernacle and on his rock (v5). Or to put it another way, when David seeks God he seeks him everywhere. He looks for him in every place and in every way. He is disciplined in how he searches.

If seeking God were a game, these would be the rules: worship God, pray regularly, read scripture everyday, spend time in silence with God, allow God's Spirit to show you new and exciting things in the world all the time. When Christians seek God's face, they are seeking to be in God's presence. They are seeking God's presence in every place and at all times.

The best part of hide and seek is being found. A squeal of delight and joy from the finder, and normally the hider. For now they can work together. God is delighted when we find him. God is over the moon when we seek his presence with determination and

delight. God is always hoping we will seek him, because he wants to work with us.

The Lord is my light, my salvation, of whom shall I be afraid. When we seek God's face, he gives us confidence and hope. Confidence to face the future no matter what the present holds. Confidence to wait in times of trial and great difficulty, confidence to wait. To be strong and to wait. When we seek God's presence, we find a face of love, care and compassion. A face that looks upon us and is so pleased to see us. We see a face that yearns for us to meet with him, to reassure us of his presence everyday with him.

A text is a simple message from a friend, an email is nice to receive, a phone call is more personal, a zoom call more draining, but meeting face to face with a friend is surely the best way. For with those we know well, just a slight raised eyebrow tells us so much, and it is no different with God. Meeting with God face to face, seeking his presence gives our hearts confidence and hope. In these days when so many trials around us and on our screens, when we seek God, we will find hope. When we seek God, we will discover confidence. When we earnestly seek God, we will find his peace to sustain us. When we seek God face to face, we will truly be found in God.

Kids Craft

Make a suncatcher in shape of candle to remind us of God's light and hope.

Write a psalm

Pray and try writing one sentence about:

a challenge at the moment
a challenge faced before which God helped you through
something in creation to thank God for.
a way we can worship and praise God

Light candles at front

Prayers for world led by Mary Adjei

Song: We seek your kingdom

Blessing