

Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet

17 July 2022

Call to worship, Amos 9.6

The Lord builds his home in the heavens
And over the earth he puts the dome of the sky.

He calls for the waters of the sea
And pours them out on the earth.
His name is the Lord!

Song: Look up to the skies, see all that's
displayed,
the wonder of God in the things he has
made.

The sunsets and storms, the bright shining
stars,
are showing his glory and almighty power.

*Come, join with creation today,
worship the Lord give him praise.*

Sing praise!

Sing praise!

The sun rising up reminds us to say,
'Be glad and give thanks to the Lord God
today.'
And when evening falls, the moon's silver
light
will shine for his praise through the darkness
of night.

The mountains so high, the valleys so low,
the fruit on the trees and the flowers that
grow,
the birds of the air, the creatures that crawl,
give glory to God who reigns over them all.

Song: Indescribable
From the highest of heights to the depths of
the sea

Creations revealing Your majesty
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of
spring
Every creature unique in the song that it
sings
All exclaiming

*Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God
All powerful, untameable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God*

Who has told every lightning bolt where it
should go?

Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with
snow

Who imagined the sun and gives source to
its light?

Yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of
night

None can fathom

Prayer

Song: My Jesus, my Savior
Lord there is none like you
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have
In YOU*

All age activity: Good banana, bad banana?

The prophet Amos is given a vision, like a dream where God showed him a basket of ripe fruit. God asked Amos

(8.2): ²“What do you see, Amos?” he asked. “A basket of ripe fruit,” I answered. Then the Lord said to me, “The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

What do you think this means? Just like we make a judgment about a banana being good or bad, God said he thought the people looked like ripe fruit. When fruit is ripe it gets eaten. This means God was judging the people and saying no more. This has to be the end.

Can you remember why God was sad with his people? Amos 8.4 Trampled on the poor and needy. The prophet Amos tells the people that this is not right and it must end.

Prayer

Lord when we have been selfish, we are sorry.

Lord when we have not shared our food, we are sorry.

Lord when we have cheated to get rich, we are sorry.

Help us Lord to be fair and kind to everyone in the world. Amen

Who is like the Lord our God
Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks down on the heavens and the earth?
We lift to God, all knowing and all caring,
the exploited of the nations, praying that
God will turn the hearts of the powerful and
the cynical.

**We write the needy on our hearts and
pray for grace to use our hands to help
them.**

**Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks down on the heavens and the
earth?
Amen.**

Song: Hosanna

I see the King of Glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes, the whole earth
shakes, yeah
I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing, the people sing

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest*

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith, with selfless faith
I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees, we're on our knees

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved
me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity

Reading: Amos 9.11-15 by Allen Mukasa

¹¹“In that day

“I will restore David’s fallen shelter—
I will repair its broken walls
and restore its ruins—

and will rebuild it as it used to be,
¹²so that they may possess the remnant
of Edom

and all the nations that bear my
name,^[a]”

declares the Lord, who will do these
things.

¹³ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when the reaper will be overtaken by the ploughman
and the planter by the one treading grapes.
New wine will drip from the mountains
and flow from all the hills,
¹⁴ and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.^[1]
“They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.
¹⁵ I will plant Israel in their own land,
never again to be uprooted
from the land I have given them,”
says the Lord your God.

Sermon: God is our restorer

Sir Mo Farah, Olympic champion and supreme athlete shared part of his lifestory in a BBC documentary this week, some of you may have seen it, if not please do watch it back on iplayer. Mo revealed that his real name is not Mohammed Farah but that he was trafficked to this country as a child aged 8 under a false name. He was held in London by a woman he did not know as a slave. He worked for her, caring for her children, cooking and cleaning her home. His real name was Hussein. He had grown up in Somaliland where his father died in the civil war and so for safety and to be cared for he was sent to his Uncle who lived in the next country. It was from his new home with his uncle that he was taken by a woman and given a false identity and flown to the UK.

This is the kind of injustice that God does not like. When we trample on the needy and vulnerable. When we see a way to make money out of the poor. When payday loans companies advertise to desperate people, and

charge enormous interest rates, God does not like it.

And he didn't like it when his own people did it. Amos calls the people of God to account, he reminds them that God is on the side of the poor and oppressed. He reminds them that living a life of luxury is not OK when that lifestyle has been funded on the backs of the poor.

Read vs 4-8

God sees the deeds of his people, and shows Amos the image of ripe fruit. This image means that God sees the end of his people who mistreat the poor. God wants justice, and he will judge those who are unjust.

Jesus spares no punches for those who trample on the poor either, he said: blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom, blessed are those who mourn for theirs is the kingdom. There is a biblical priority for those who are poor and oppressed, God is on the side of the poor and wants to restore those who have been treated badly.

The one thing that saved Mo Farah was that he could run. Once Mo was allowed to attend school, his teacher had seen his ability and encouraged him. He started to compete regionally, nationally and then wanted to travel internationally. But as a trafficked child he had no papers. No passport. No birth certificate. There was a particularly moving scene in the documentary between Mo and his old PE teacher from school. His teacher brought out a large box of paperwork that showed just how hard he had worked to help him. This large box of paperwork was full of letters to the home office back and forth, back and forth and finally the acceptance of his right to remain in the UK.

In the 2012 Olympics here in London, his teacher said he wept for joy as Mo won gold. A exploited child to hero and champion. Amos is just like that teacher. He can see the

potential in the people of God, he is speaking out for them, trying to guide them and encourage them. He is challenging the injustice of every exploitation and injustice seen. And he is urging them to seek a new life, a life of the kingdom where justice will be done. Where the grapes will grow faster than can be picked, where the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and God will rebuild his people, restore his people and repair his kingdom.

God does not look at injustice, side with the poor and walk away. No! God wants justice AND restoration. God does not want justice alone. God wants restoration. God wants all of us to run like Mo, to be crowned with a crown of righteousness. For as Christ is offered to us all on the cross, he offers us all mercy and grace and love. Christ restores us. Christ rebuilds the kingdom and he does it in a new way. A way that honours the past and looks to the future. Christ brings the new kingdom, the new wine, and calls each of us to be part of the Kingdom, to follow the king. When we follow the king, rather than anyone or anything else, we are known for being fair, just and kind.

For all those times when we have been fair, just and kind – God rejoices. For all those times when we have been selfish, unjust and mean – God weeps. God weeps and he sends his son to us. Christ who calls us, calls us to turn around and to live differently for we are serving another king – the king of all kings. Christ restores and heals all of us who recognise every selfish, unjust and mean word and deed in us. Christ calls us to part of his kingdom that seeks to bring justice and restore.

Not many of us can run like Mo, but all of us who seek God can be part of his restoration on earth. For whenever we seek justice for another, we build his kingdom. Whenever we seek healing for another, we build his kingdom. Whenever we seek fairness, we

build his kingdom and find restoration in God.

Song: Most merciful God,
our Father of grace,
we confess we have sinned,
we have walked our own way.
Our love has been fickle,
our hearts they have strayed.
So, Lord, in your mercy,
forgive us we pray.

*Restore us,
change us.
Lord, lead us on.*

That we may do justly,
forever love mercy,
together walk humbly
with you.

Communion

Prayers for the world

God, the maker of the heavens
And the planet that we share
Show us how to live, like Jesus
Lives of gratitude and care
Make us mindful of the footprints
From the lives that we pursue
Make us partners in your mission
You are making all things new
God, the gardener of Eden

Teach us how to tend this earth
Learning from the changing seasons
Times of fallow and new birth
Lord have mercy when we're careless
Rich resources we misuse
Use our hands to heal creation
You are making all things new

God of labour and vocation
Lord of science, trade and art
Take our efforts and our passions
Make them mirrors of your heart
Every habitat and creature

Loved and valued, God, by you
May our lives reveal your Kingdom
You are making all things new

Blessing