

# *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): <sup>2</sup>“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

<sup>11</sup>“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,

<sup>12</sup>so that they may possess the remnant of Edom

and all the nations that bear my name,<sup>[a]</sup>”

declares the Lord, who will do these things.

<sup>13</sup> “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,  
<sup>14</sup> and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.<sup>[1]</sup>  
“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.  
<sup>15</sup> 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*