

*Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

17 October 2021

Welcome

Song: Come now is the time

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God

One day every knee will bow

Still the greatest treasure remains for those

Who gladly choose You now

Reading: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green
pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest
valley,**

**I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me
all the days of my life,**

**and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

Song: E ti tobi to Olwa

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

The Godhead Three in One

Father Spirit Son

The Lion and the Lamb

The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names

Worthy of our praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

You're the name above all names

You are worthy of our praise

And my heart will sing

How great is our God

Prayer

Song: I am a friend of God

I am a friend of God

I am a friend of God

I am a friend of God

He calls me friend

Who am I that You are mindful of me

That You hear me when I call

Is it true that You are thinking of me

How You love me

it's amazing

Reading: Mark 10.35-45 Taiena Saunders

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "there is something we want you to do for us."

³⁶ "What is it?" Jesus asked them.

³⁷ They answered, "When you sit on your throne in your glorious Kingdom, we want you to let us sit with you, one at your right and one at your left."

³⁸ Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup of suffering that I must drink? Can you be baptized in the way I must be baptized?"

³⁹ "We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup I must drink and be baptized in the way I must be baptized. ⁴⁰ But I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right and my left. It is God who will give these places to those for whom he has prepared them."

⁴¹ When the other ten disciples heard about it, they became angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them all together to him and said, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. ⁴³ This, however, is not the way it is among you. If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest; ⁴⁴ and if one of you wants to be first, you must be the slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."

All age: Cup quiz

Sermon: Sharing Christ's life

20 years ago I was seated at a wedding between an ultra right wing grumpy old man who loved hunting, shooting and fishing and a goth vegan teenager who did not want to be at his cousins wedding. I was told later that they thought I would keep the peace. It was not an easy meal to share. If you have ever had the task of arranging a seating plan you will know this is not a simple task. Particularly at a wedding feast, for everyone thinks they should be sitting near the top table. Who has rights to sit nearest the bride and groom – bridesmaid or cousin? Tricky. Grumpy aunt or best friend?

James and John raise a question to Jesus about a seating plan for a messianic feast. In the bible heaven is imagined in lots of different ways but an important image is one that we find in Psalm 23 v 5 you prepare a banquet for me. Heaven is like a big feast, like a wedding reception and James and John would like to reserve their seats on the top table. They want the fancy chairs with the posh bows on the back. They do not want to be stuck on the kids table or the one that the waiters always forget to serve the wine.

Jesus reminds James and John of two important things. He reminds them that God the Father is in charge of the seating plan. And two if they want to sit near him, then they need to be like him sharing a cup and a baptism.

Take a look at this picture – it's of a quaich cup. This a ceremonial cup given at Scottish weddings. It has two handles, not to prevent you spilling some whisky but so that two people can hold the handles and drink in turn from the same cup. This idea of sharing cup also applied to warriors sharing a wee dram before entering battle.

In the bible sharing a cup has a particular meaning. It's a Jewish expression meaning to share one's fate, just like a quaich cup reminds husband and wife to share life together, and warriors to fight together in battle.

The most memorable phrase about a cup is at the garden of gethsemane where Jesus asks – take this cup of suffering away from me. The cup of suffering is an image from Jeremiah 25.15-28, Isaiah 51 and Psalm 75. It is a metaphor for God's wrath, god's anger. Jesus talking about drinking the cup of suffering, he is talking about taking on the anger of God at the sin, injustice and pain in the world. It is not an easy thing to talk about for us or for Jesus.

He asks James and John too; will you share my baptism? We all delighted in seeing Allen and Julian being baptised recently. The action of going down into waters in baptism is symbolic of the biblical world view of water. In the times of Jesus and before – water is to be feared. The sea is a place of great unknowns, danger, storms, strange beasts that might swallow you whole. Going under the water is like entering a place of death. When we are baptised, we go under the water, it is as if we are laying down our old way of life, dying and coming out the water entering new life. And we share this with Jesus, he died and rose again. In baptism, we end our old life, and start a new one.

Why is this important to the Christian faith? And why is a strange old image from the bible relevant today? James and John wanted to look important by sitting at the top table with Jesus.

Jesus says no.

He says he came not to be served but to serve.

Christians can be found moaning that the church doesn't have the influence it should have, that the church needs to be great and

powerful. Jesus says no. He says he came not to be served but to serve.

Ministers can easily be found moaning that their church isn't big enough and needs to be more powerful. Jesus says no. He says he came not to be served but to serve.

Jesus says no to every person grasping at power, no to every person thinking they are better than anyone else. Jesus says learn how to serve. Jesus says learn how to wash feet, learn how to wait tables, learn how to give your life for others.

Jesus does not say be a doormat. Jesus does not say allow others to treat you badly, with injustice and evil. Jesus says if you want to follow me you need to choose to serve others.

This is the cup we share with Jesus. We choose to serve others as Christians. We choose to see other people and serve them, we choose to see others and love them, we choose to see others and not think ourselves better.

For Jesus Christ himself, son of God, gave up his place in heaven and came to earth to be a servant. Jesus chooses us! Jesus chooses to be with us. Jesus chooses to walk our earth and share our life. Jesus was humble and obedient and walked to the cross. For this reason, God raised him to new life and gave him the name above every other name. In honour of Jesus, we all kneel and proclaim Jesus is Lord. Jesus chooses us today too. Jesus chooses to be with us in difficult and testing days, in easy and wonderful days. Jesus chooses us.

How can we share Jesus' cup today? May we choose to serve others just as Jesus did. May we find ways to care for each other and to partner together so we point others to life of service that is found in Jesus Christ. Jesus offers each of us one handle of his cup, he offers us partnership in life. He offers us an

opportunity to share his cup and so share the delight of knowing him, knowing the Spirit's presence in our lives and being sustained by him in our service to others. May our church be built on sharing life together as we serve others just as Jesus did.

Song: Servant King

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve,
And give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come, see his hands and his feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving.

Membership

Welcoming new members: Allen, Julian,
Rebecca and Esther.

A... as a member of this church do you
promise to share your life and your journey
of faith with these people in this place?

I do

Do you promise to keep listening for the call
of God, ready to serve others and witness to
Jesus Christ as a member of this church?

I do

Church members

Will you as members of Christ Church
promise to share your lives and journey of
faith with A walking together in ways that
are known and yet to be made known?

We will

Will you pray for A and do all you can to
help them to witness to Jesus Christ?

We will.

*In our life together we celebrate the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit.*

Song: Be the centre

Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light
Jesus

Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song
Jesus

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide
Jesus

Communion

Prayer led by Allen Musaka

Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hidden
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you

and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

Prayer led by Julian O'Brien

We give you thanks for this bread and wine
symbols of our world
and signs of your transforming love
Send your Holy Spirit we pray
that we may be renewed
into the likeness of Jesus Christ
and formed into his Body
This we pray in his name and for his sake.
Amen.

Esther and Rebecca will then serve the bread
and wine.

Intercession

Song:

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Blessing

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our
prayers,
feeding us with your word,
and encouraging us in our meeting together.

**Take us and use us
to love and serve you, and all people,
in the power of your Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**