

*Christ Church New  
Southgate & Friern Barnet  
18 July 2021*

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Welcome

*Song: Look up to the skies*

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.

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*Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-14*

7 King David was settled in his palace, and  
the Lord kept him safe from all his  
enemies. <sup>2</sup>Then the king said to the prophet

Nathan, "Here I am living in a house built of  
cedar, but God's Covenant Box is kept in a  
tent!"

<sup>3</sup>Nathan answered, "Do whatever you have  
in mind, because the Lord is with you." <sup>4</sup>But  
that night the Lord said to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go  
and tell my servant David that I say to him,  
'You are not the one to build a temple for  
me to live in. <sup>6</sup>From the time I rescued the  
people of Israel from Egypt until now, I  
have never lived in a temple; I have traveled  
around living in a tent. <sup>7</sup>In all my traveling  
with the people of Israel I never asked any  
of the leaders that I appointed why they had  
not built me a temple made of cedar.'

<sup>8</sup>"So tell my servant David that I,  
the Lord Almighty, say to him, 'I took you  
from looking after sheep in the fields and  
made you the ruler of my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I  
have been with you wherever you have gone,  
and I have defeated all your enemies as you  
advanced. I will make you as famous as the  
greatest leaders in the world. <sup>10-11</sup> I have  
chosen a place for my people Israel and have  
settled them there, where they will live  
without being oppressed any more. Ever  
since they entered this land, they have been  
attacked by violent people, but this will not  
happen again. I promise to keep you safe  
from all your enemies and to give you  
descendants. <sup>12</sup>When you die and are buried  
with your ancestors, I will make one of your  
sons king and will keep his kingdom  
strong. <sup>13</sup>He will be the one to build a  
temple for me, and I will make sure that his  
dynasty continues forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his  
father, and he will be my son.

The bible also talks about a new temple, a  
new way of being a church together. Let's  
say these words together from Ephesians  
2.19-22

We are not strangers to God  
**We are all God's family**  
**We are all welcome in God's family.**

God's family is built on the apostles and prophets in the bible.

**Jesus is our cornerstone.**

**Everything in our church is about Jesus.**

Jesus holds us together

**Jesus makes us grow**

**into a temple for God**

**With Jesus, we are being built together;**

**a home where God lives**

**through his Spirit**

*All age: Foil Prayers*

With special thanks to Flame Creative

1. Hold the piece of foil and look at the shiny side. Say thank you to God for good things in your life and for things that you like doing.



2. Screw the foil into a loose ball. Think about people who find life tough: people who are ill, tired, lonely, sad and afraid. Ask God to help them and be with them.



3. Smooth the ball out so that the foil is back into a square. Thank God for people who help others when they need it- parents, teachers, medical staff, friends and any others that children can name. Pray that God will bless these people and pray that we will also be people who help others and show them love.



4. Mould the foil into the shape of...

- The initial letter of the name of someone or



somewhere you'd like to pray for

- a shape that symbolises something you'd like to pray for (make extra foil available if needed!

- Hold the shape and ask God to help and bless that person/place/situation.

Source:<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/04/interactive-prayer-foil-intercessions.html>

Lord's prayer active

Our Father in heaven, arms up  
hallowed be your name, banner shape  
your kingdom come, hands together out to side

your will be done, side, palms side out  
on earth as in heaven. Palms down & up

Give us today our daily bread. Hand together cupped

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 chest across

For the kingdom, arms wide, palms side  
the power, fists lifted

and the glory are yours rain fingers

now and for ever. Right hand pointing, left hand spiral finger out

Amen. Hands clap above head

Sermon: *God chooses to live with us*

Once there was a very nice village, in a very nice place, filled with very nice people. There was a church on the green in this nice village, but it was not so nice - it was a tin hut. Everyone loved the church but hated how it looked. So the people decided to rebuild the church to be as nice as their houses. They decorated in the same way as their houses with orange flowery wallpaper, panelled wood all over the ceiling and even the toilets

were avocado in colour – just like their nice houses. And it's still the same today.

David has won battles, conquered a city and brought the ark into Jerusalem. He is sitting pretty in a house made of cedar wood. Beautiful, rich and opulent. He thinks it's inappropriate for him to be in luxury and God to be in a tent. King David says to Nathan the prophet: I'm living in a cedar house, God is living in a tent! Nathan says – do whatever you want because the lord is with you. And for once in the bible, David is wrong and Nathan – the new prophet is wrong. God does not want a cedar house. God does not need a cedar house. And it is not up to David to decide if God should be in a cedar house.

How often do we limit God? How often do we try to tame him? And offer him something without asking what he wants? How often do we build for God what we want not what he wants?

God asks Nathan to pass on the message to David – I've got far more in store for you. I've been with my people since Egypt, and I've brought you from the field to the throne, so now I will establish a new kind of house – a dynasty. Your family will go on to build a temple for me, and your family will be in power forever. V14

If we just make churches look nice, made with beautiful windows and wonderful wood – even cedar wood, we miss the point. For the beauty of the church is found in presence of God which dwells among us. Do you remember the first time we met together in person last year? I cried. Do you remember the first time we prayed together in person? It moved my very soul. It is beautiful when we gather here. It is beautiful when we seek God together.

It is also beautiful when we care for each other on whatsapp, when we serve God together, when we stand together against injustice and when resolve to pull together in tough times.

God doesn't want a nice building, God wants a growing living family to be part of. God wants churches that aren't the vision of one brilliant man, but many living stones. Each of us doing our part to share in his glory. God chooses to dwell with us, he chose to travel with the people of God in the desert, he chose to travel with them in fire and cloud in the wilderness and chooses to be with us now.

When you think of Jerusalem, you probably have in mind this beautiful dome. The old site of the temple Solomon builds is now a highly contentious place. The temple was destroyed, only one historic wall remains – the wailing wall and now a mosque sits behind this wall in the temple's place. Land and location have never been more contested than in the city of Jerusalem. But more so, each entrance to the site is controlled. You have to go through a metal detector, have your bag searched, identity checked. It's closed for most of the day, only a few random hours are open to visitors. It feels hemmed in and tense.

Paul reminds us that Jesus provides a new way for all of us. Jesus is the pattern for our church, he is our cornerstone. He reminds us that the church can be like the temple – but not the temple as in the general sense. The church is like the part of the temple that was called the naos – the inner shrine, as in the church should be a special meeting place between God and his people. The church can be the place of God's presence when we meet together. How? Well the answer to most questions at church is Jesus and this one is no different. God chooses to dwell with us by sending his son to us. Jesus Christ lives on in our hearts as Lord by the power of the Spirit. When we live together as a church in Christ

through the Spirit, then, then we have the opportunity to encounter God.

All this talk of church buildings may lead us to think about our own building project, where I hope we are building with God's glory in mind. As we wait to complete the sale of Grove Rd, as we wait to begin to transform those halls into functioning and welcoming spaces, may our collective life be shaped by Jesus. May our church family grow more and more to look like Jesus. May we walk with each other, and share the load. May we be light-hearted, fun and kind with each other. May we seek to serve and to love each other.

At communion, we remember that God chooses to travel with us still. This is food for the journey of life, reminders of God's incredible love for us, that he doesn't leave us but chooses to live with us – not as individuals but as a community of people so we can grow together in faith – the church of Jesus Christ.

### *Communion*

*Song: Jesus you call us*

Jesus, you call us to this, your table,  
meeting our hunger  
with living bread;  
now, as we share in your broken body,  
so our hearts are fed.

*This is our communion,  
gathered here in union with you,  
we are one.*

*Yours will be the song we sing,  
evermore remembering your cross,  
and all you've done,  
until you come.*

Jesus, you draw us to taste your mercy,  
meeting our thirst  
with your cup of wine;

now, by your blood, you declare us holy,  
filled with life, divine.

Jesus, you send us to love and serve you,  
meeting the world  
with your truth and grace;  
now, by your Spirit, you lead us onward,  
to your glorious praise.

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*Prayer of thanksgiving led by Ola Lawal*

We praise you that we are here today,  
around the table of Jesus.  
We have heard the good news of your love;  
the cross is the sign of your arms  
stretched out in love for us  
and the empty tomb declares your love  
stronger than death.

Christ has died!

**Christ has died!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen!**

Christ will come again!

**Christ will come again!**

Send your Holy Spirit  
upon this bread and wine,  
and upon your people,  
that Christ may be with us,  
and we may be made ready to live for you  
and to do what you ask of us,  
today, and every day to come.

We make this prayer  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
in the love of the Creator,  
one God,  
to whom be glory and praise forever,  
**Amen.**

*Share communion together*

Song: The Spirit of the Lord has anointed us  
to speak good news;  
the example of the Lord has inspired us  
to be good news.  
The favour of the Lord flows through us his  
church  
to the world he loves;  
the compassion of the Lord, seen in Jesus'  
life,  
will be known through us.

*We are sent to love the broken hearted,  
sent to pray that the sick are healed,  
bring your freedom to the captives,  
walk in Jesus' power and authority.  
We'll be good news, we'll speak good news.*

*We are called to bless the poor and needy,  
called to serve all the lost and least,  
bring release where there's oppression,  
walk in Jesus' power and authority.  
We'll be good news, we'll speak good news.*

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*Blessing*

Remind us again Lord, of your presence  
today as his family

**May we love each other as Jesus loves us**  
**May we care for each other as the Spirit**  
**cares for us**  
**May we keep on growing together for**  
**God's glory**