

*Christ Church New  
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

*19 March 2023*

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Welcome to family and friends of Kenzo and Kairo Le and our brownies and guides for our service today.

Song: Praise him, you heavens  
and all that's above.  
Praise him, you angels  
and heavenly hosts.  
Let the whole Earth praise him.

Praise him, the sun, moon  
and bright shining stars.  
Praise him, you heavens  
and waters and skies.  
Let the whole Earth praise him.

Great in power, great in glory,  
great in mercy, King of Heaven.  
Great in battle, great in wonder,  
great in Zion, King over all the Earth.

Song: Our God is a great big God  
Our God is a great big God  
Our God is a great big God  
And he holds us in his hands

He's higher than a skyscraper  
He's deeper than a submarine  
He's wider than the universe  
And beyond my wildest dreams  
He's known me and he's loved me  
Since before the world began  
How wonderful to be a part of  
God's amazing plan

*Mother's Day prayers*

Lord today, we give thanks for all women in our lives. We thank you for mothers who care for us.

We pray for your Spirit to comfort and complete those who have lost their mothers for this day is testing indeed, for those who cannot become mothers, for those of us whose mothers have not been there when we needed them and for those whose mothering was hard and difficult to remember.

Lord help us today to be thankful for every loving person in our lives. We thank and honour before you every woman who has been a sign of your love to us. In your gracious name we pray. Amen.

*Flower gifts given to women.*

Song: You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now, revealed in You our Christ

*What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful  
Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to  
this  
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus*

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus, You brought heaven down  
My sin was great, Your love was greater  
What could separate us now?

Death could not hold You, the veil tore  
before You  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave  
The Heavens are roaring the praise of Your  
glory  
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal  
Now and forever, God, You reign

Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the Glory  
Yours is the Name above all names

*Dedication of Kairo and Kenzo Le*

Do you the members and friends of this church promise to offer A and her family your love, support and prayers and will you share your faith with her/him by word and example?

**We will**

Song: The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His  
Face toward you  
And give you peace  
Amen, amen, amen  
Amen, amen, amen

May His favor be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
And your family and your children  
And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you  
And behind you, and beside you  
All around you, and within you  
He is with you, He is with you  
In the morning, in the evening  
In your coming, and your going  
In your weeping, and rejoicing  
He is for you, He is for you

*All age craft: Sunflower cards for women who show God's love to us.*

*Reading: 1 Corinthians 13.1-2, 4-13*

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. <sup>2</sup>I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all

knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; <sup>5</sup>love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; <sup>6</sup>love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

<sup>8</sup>Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. <sup>9</sup>For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; <sup>10</sup>but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.

<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways. <sup>12</sup>What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete—as complete as God's knowledge of me.

<sup>13</sup>Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Sermon: After having children, I went back to work. I remember having a meeting with another older woman, who made me a cup of tea. I said 'what a lovely cup of hot tea', she laughed and said 'mums don't get many, do they?' Why don't mums get many hot cups of tea? If you are caring for your child, and they need you, you put the tea down and often forget about it. Being a parent teaches you how to care for someone else and how to begin to love someone other than yourself. It teaches you how to put others needs ahead of yours. Love is like a cold cup of tea. Love is patient, kind not jealous or proud, love does not keep a record of how many cold cups of tea there have been.

In our bible reading, St Paul is talking to a church that is divided, a church that is arguing about worship styles. Today we live in a divided world, one that is arguing about everything from the cost of living crisis to migration, Brexit and so on and so on.

And yet two voices, two footballers have called us all to account. Gary Lineker tweeted against the proposed changes by the government to migration policy. In reflection he said: 'However difficult the last few days have been, it simply doesn't compare to having to flee your home from persecution or war to seek refuge in a land far away'. Marcus Rashford has called for the government to end child food poverty. "This is about humanity," he wrote. "Looking at ourselves in the mirror and feeling like we did everything we could to protect those who can't, for whatever reason or circumstance, protect themselves."

This is love. Love that looks to the benefit of others and not ourselves. This is love, love that walks in our shoes, love that lifts others higher, love that is not self-serving, love that shapes an entire life. This is radical love. This is the love that Jesus shows us. Love that is self-sacrificing, love that gives power away, love that always seeks to bless. For out of love, God created the world. Out of love, God promises to be with us. Out of love, God sent his child to this earth for us, not to benefit God but because he loves us. Out of love, Jesus walked to his death. Out of love, he takes away the sin of the world. Out of love, Jesus bursts back from the dead and into new life. Out of love, he calls us to follow him in the way of love.

How can we reflect God's love? How can we look in the mirror and see God's love at work? Parents love your children unendingly, Godparents love selflessly, babysit generously. Children love by sharing your toys, and helping each other. Grown ups love by caring for others as you long to be cared

for. Loving in this way doesn't mean accepting bad behaviour. Love like this means always seeking to build others up and not to tear them down. Love because what we know is partial. Love because God loves you. Love because God has always loved you and will never stop. Let our love be seen in powerful statements and actions of support for the vulnerable, in our love of others first, and in countless cold cups of tea for the cause of loving others just as God always loves us.

Song: There's a love that seeks us,  
love that will not leave us,  
knows our deepest longing,  
drives away our fear.  
There's a God who holds us,  
lovingly enfolds us;  
we will lack for nothing,  
trusting he is near.

*Our God, you're wonderful,  
your love will never fail,  
your goodness follows us through all our days.  
Our God, you're wonderful  
your love forever will be with us.*

There's a love that guides us,  
walks the road beside us,  
comforting, providing,  
showing us the way.  
Love will light the darkness,  
where the valley's deepest,  
lead us through the shadows  
to a resting place.

*Mothering Sunday prayers*

Today we pray for those countless mothers in our world who cannot care for their family as they would wish.

We think of those who have been unable to provide their children with food, and watch helplessly as poverty and malnutrition take their toll.

We think of those who have been unable to protect their children from violence and war.

Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

We think of those who are forced to take to the road to live as refugees for the sake of their children's safety.

Blessing

*Music: Ukrainian Lord's prayer, N Kedrov*

Move us we pray, to support the mothers who live in our home or town, as well as to care for and support those who struggle in dangerous, poverty stricken and hungry places.

Move us to action, that we might truly be committed to seeing your heavenly love ever-shining through the faces of each of us, male and female as we nurture all of your children. Amen

Song: Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

*My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below