

*Christ Church New  
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

*1 August 2021*

---

Welcome

Song: Joy of the Lord, Rend Collective

Prayer

Living Spirit,  
present in creation,  
present in Christ,  
present with us now,  
**we worship you.**  
**We greet you.**

For each place  
that has made us wonder,  
every moment  
that time has stood still,  
**we praise you.**

For each word  
that has spoken truth,  
every deed  
that has made peace,  
**we praise you.**

For each life  
that has touched ours,  
every chance  
to show your love,  
**we praise you.**

**Living Spirit,**  
**present in creation,**  
**present in Christ,**  
**present with us now**  
**we worship you.**  
**We greet you.**

Lord Jesus,  
you say to your disciples,  
'Peace be with you',  
and you breathe  
your Holy Spirit upon us.

When we find no peace  
within ourselves ...  
Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy**

When we fail to build  
the unity of your Church ...  
Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy**

When we are complicit  
in the violence of the world...  
Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy**

**Risen Lord,**  
**in your forgiving love,**  
**show us again your wounds,**  
**and remind us of the cost**  
**of true discipleship,**  
**that with all God's people**  
**we may commit ourselves**  
**with body, mind and spirit,**  
**to struggle for the peace**  
**you died to bring.**

*Reading: Genesis 37.18-end*

<sup>18</sup>They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted against him and decided to kill him. <sup>19</sup>They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer. <sup>20</sup>Come on now, let's kill him and throw his body into one of the dry wells. We can say that a wild animal killed him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams."

<sup>21</sup>Reuben heard them and tried to save Joseph. "Let's not kill him," he said. <sup>22</sup>"Just throw him into this well in the wilderness, but don't hurt him." He said this, planning to save him from them and send him back

to his father. <sup>23</sup> When Joseph came up to his brothers, they ripped off his long robe with full sleeves. <sup>24</sup> Then they took him and threw him into the well, which was dry.

<sup>25</sup> While they were eating, they suddenly saw a group of Ishmaelites traveling from Gilead to Egypt. Their camels were loaded with spices and resins. <sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother and covering up the murder? <sup>27</sup> Let's sell him to these Ishmaelites. Then we won't have to hurt him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed, <sup>28</sup> and when some Midianite traders came by, the brothers <sup>29</sup> pulled Joseph out of the well and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

<sup>29</sup> When Reuben came back to the well and found that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes in sorrow. <sup>30</sup> He returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is not there! What am I going to do?"

<sup>31</sup> Then they killed a goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. <sup>32</sup> They took the robe to their father and said, "We found this. Does it belong to your son?"

<sup>33</sup> He recognized it and said, "Yes, it is his! Some wild animal has killed him. My son Joseph has been torn to pieces!" <sup>34</sup> Jacob tore his clothes in sorrow and put on sackcloth. He mourned for his son a long time. <sup>35</sup> All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "I will go down to the world of the dead still mourning for my son." So he continued to mourn for his son Joseph.

<sup>36</sup> Meanwhile, in Egypt the Midianites had sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of the king's officers, who was the captain of the palace guard.

*Song – Cheeky Panda. Giant of faith*

We all come, in different shapes and sizes  
And life is full, of many surprises  
But one thing stays the same,  
Jesus is on my side  
I don't need to be afraid,  
I don't need to run and hide

When I open my bible  
it's clear as can be  
The God that I read about is with me  
And I'm going to be a giant of faith

*Like Moses (Moses)  
And Joseph (Joseph)  
Daniel, Esther, Rahab and Ruth  
No denying the truth, they're giants of faith  
Like David (David)  
Elijah (Elijah)  
Noah and the rest of the team CD  
I'm gonna be a giant of faith G  
I'm gonna be a giant of faith*

© Elevation (www.songsolutions.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI no 5120004

*Reading: Psalm 40*

**For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord;  
**he turned to me and heard my cry.**

<sup>2</sup> He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
**he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.**

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth,  
**a hymn of praise to our God.**  
Many will see and fear the Lord  
**and put their trust in him.**

<sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one  
**who trusts in the Lord,**  
who does not look to the proud,  
**to those who turn aside to false gods.** <sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Many, Lord my God,

**are the wonders you have done,  
the things you planned for us.**

None can compare with you;

**were I to speak and tell of your deeds,  
they would be too many to declare.**

*Sermon: Looking for hope*

Rev. Ruth Moriarty

If the queen were to visit Christ Church, I wonder what she would wear? I am reliably informed by several gossip magazines that she is most likely to wear a bright colour when visiting a crowd of people so she can be easily spotted. She wears eye-popping yellow so if you or I are at the back of the crowd, we can see her even if she's 50 metres away.

Joseph's coat has a similar effect. He is spotted while he still far off, but the reaction is mixed. Just like some of us would love to meet the queen, others wouldn't be so keen. Joseph was a divisive character among his brothers. We learnt last week that his father Jacob had four wives, each bearing several children. Joseph was one of the youngest children – about 17 years old here and born to one of Jacob's favourite wives.

As the brothers see his brightly coloured long sleeved robe flowing as he walked down the hill to see them, their emotions are stirred. They want to kill him. They want to kill him because he's treated differently to them, because he is given different clothing to them, much smarter more beautiful clothing to them. They want to kill him because he keeps telling them about these audacious dreams where they would bow down to him. They see his coat; they see him and their blood boils. They are angry. They are hurt. They are tired, working hard as shepherds. Life seems very unfair, unjust to them. They see a world where they are treated differently because they happen to have been born to a different

mother. This is anger born from pain, unjust treatment and a lack of love.

Reuben is the oldest, he tries to remind them of his wisdom in years and protect the boy by suggesting the well option. Don't kill him, just abandon him. Reuben is needing to score some brownie points with his dad. In chapter 35 he slept with Bilhah – one of his Dad's wives. Jacob was not pleased about this. Maybe if he could rescue Jacob, his favour would be restored with the old man.

But it is Judah who sees what he thinks is the real answer – let's not kill or abandon him, let's make some money. Let's sell him as a slave to these passing travellers. How much hatred do you need in your heart to sell your own brother into slavery?

All the while Joseph is stuck in a well and then on the back of a camel. He'd gone to check on their welfare, and wound up beaten up, stripped of his robe and bundled off to Egypt. How would he have felt? Abandoned? Angry? Shocked? Deeply traumatised.

Finally, the coat is dipped in goat blood and Jacob sees what he thinks is happening – his son is dead. The brothers let him think it and get away with their crime.

Where do we look to for guidance? Where do we look for God's leading in our lives? The brothers look to the hills and see Joseph. Reuben looks in the well and realises he can't save Joseph. The other brothers look to the hills and see the slave traders. Jacob looks at the robe and sees death of his son. Where do we look for God's activity in our lives? Where do we look for the Spirit's new life and power?

They looked and saw the 'dreamer'. This wasn't an affectionate term, they spat out that word. They hear the dreams, and they look at Joseph and they don't like what they see or

hear. How could this boy and that dream be any good to us?

The dream is a foretaste of hope. The dream and the dreamer are signs of God's providence and power, for the brothers do not know what is ahead. They do not realise a famine is coming, but the lord does, and he puts in place a young man to save his family, God's people, the founders of the twelve tribes of Israel. They see hope in the wilderness and reject it. They see the possibility of making a buck and accept it. They are looking all around where they are for direction and leading in their lives and ignore the very presence of God's hope right under their noses for God is at work meanwhile. Meanwhile Joseph is sent to Egypt, not to some back street shop but to the very palace guard.

We can look all around, to every hill and byway, in every section of the self-help bookshelf, all across the internet and still miss that God is in the meanwhile. God is very present and working in our lives meanwhile.

Meanwhile isn't afterwards. Meanwhile means that God is working before, during and after whatever else is going on. Meanwhile means that one thing is happening AND at the same time God is working. Do we need to look for God working in the meanwhile?

Sometimes when we are overcome with emotion, when we have been let down by parents, abused by our siblings, wound up in a wilderness with no seeming way out, we can believe that hope does not exist. We can see hope and hate it. We can see it walking towards us and want to shove hope out of the way, squash it and kill it.

As the crowds looked at Barabbas and Jesus, they saw a criminal and they saw an innocent man and they said crucify Jesus. As the disciples looked at the cross, they wept. As

the women disciples went to the tomb, they found it empty. Meanwhile ... Meanwhile hope was not dead, meanwhile Jesus was not dead, meanwhile Jesus was alive and is alive today.

If we are angry today, may we see hope and allow it to soften our hearts.

If we are alone and despairing today, may we trust in God's care today.

If we are feeling shame today, may God's love lift our hearts to seek him.

The God of the meanwhile is the God who does not leave his children be. He is the God who seeks us because he loves us, sends his son to us because he loves us, raises Jesus to life again because he loves us, and gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit for he loves us and wants us to know hope every single day. For God is always trying to find a way to bring light, love and hope to us and our world. Our God works in the meanwhile, may we look for him in every emotion and seek his hope in the meanwhile.

*Intercession for the world*

*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.

CCL# 7088226

© Joel Payne / Resound Worship, Administered by  
Jubilate Hymns Ltd

- [copyrightmanager@jubilatehymns.co.uk](mailto:copyrightmanager@jubilatehymns.co.uk)

### *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.**