

1 November 2020, 11am
*Christ Church New Southgate &
Friern Barnet*

Please join with us at 11am to read this service together either at church, in printed form, whatapp or via the youtube link on our website www.christchurchnsfb.org

Welcome to our communion service on Sunday 1 November 2020. Please find something to drink and something to eat to take part. We are holding communion services now twice a month as they have been much appreciated by all attending church.

Song: Jesus you're my superhero

He's the one who makes the sun shine
He's the one who that puts the moon in the sky
He's the one who hung the stars
One by one

He's the one who makes the birds sing
He's the one who makes your dreams so high
He's the one who makes me smile
Day by day

*Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend
Jesus you're my superhero
You're my star, my best friend*

Better than Spiderman
Better than Superman
Better than Batman
Better than anyone

Better than Yu Gi Yo
Better than Barbie
Better than Action Man
Better than anyone
Thanksgiving prayer
Creator God

In the beginning you said let there be light
And it was good

Creator God
You separated the waters and made the sky
And it was good

Creator God
You made the land, trees and fruit
And it was good

Creator God
You made the sun, moon and stars
And it was good

Creator God
You filled the oceans with fish and the sky with birds
And it was good

Creator God
You made animals that jump, wriggle and bounce across the earth
You made woman and man in your image
And it was very good.

Creator God
You rested on the last day, it is blessed

Redeemer God
You sent your Son to save us
To remind us that you made us
To call us to follow you

Sustainer God
Breathe through us Spirit,
hover over us
just as you did in creation.
Transform our lives
day by day by your presence

Let's read our text for today together:

So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created

them; male and female, he created them.

Genesis 1.27

Share one experience of God's creative power and nature that has spoken to you recently. You could write it down, or doodle a picture, or even create something beautiful to remind you that God created us. As you create, please pray asking God to keep showing you more about his nature and his direction for our lives.

Confession

Lord we are sorry for forgetting to care your earth

Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Lord we are sorry for forgetting all of us are made in your image

Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Lord we are sorry for when we have been fearful of difference

Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Lord we are sorry when we have only been friends with people like us

Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Thank you for sending us Jesus

Thank you for showing us that we are all equal in your eyes

Help us to dream big

Help us to smile at everyone

Help us to remember you made us all

Amen

I'd like to share with you part of the story of Sam Sharpe.



Born in 1804 in Jamaica. His Mum was called Juda and he had a brother Joe and a sister Eliza. He was clever and was well educated. He preached in the local Baptist church – Burchell Baptist Church in Montego Bay and was a Deacon too. He was also enslaved. Since the Middle Ages, many European countries took people from Africa around the world to work for them for no money – they were made slaves or enslaved. Sam was a baby born to an enslaved mother, so he was a slave too.

The missionaries who ran the local churches were all from the Baptist Missionary Society. Each pastor thought that everyone was made in the image of God, so they let enslaved people like Sam Sharpe preach and lead at church. Nobody else let black enslaved people do this. While ending slavery was talked about in the UK, nothing had changed in Jamaica, so Sam started a peaceful protest in 1831. He asked other enslaved people simply to stop work at an important time – when the sugar cane harvest was due and if the ripe cane was not cut then it would be ruined.

It ended up being the largest enslaved rebellion on the island – known as the Baptist War. Sam died in 1832. Sam Sharpe's bravery led to the end of slavery in the British Empire in 1838. Sharpe is remembered as a hero and a symbol of freedom and his face appears on the \$50 Jamaican banknote.

All age quiz: Sam Sharpe

When was Sam Sharpe born?
Where did he live?
What does enslaved mean?
What did he do at church?
Why was he allowed to preach?
How was he a hero?

We hear this week from a special series from the Baptist Union with Rev. Gale Richards, Minister at Zion Baptist Church Cambridge sharing her thoughts on the effect of coronavirus and the church.

Reflection: Listening to God, listening to each other.

What is God saying to you about who He is and how we are being invited to worship Him?

I think we have been challenged by the circumstances to rethink what worship looks like. I think definitely that idea that worship is the whole of life, offering our life to God has been reinforced. I think testimony has come to the fore, where people have been encouraged to share more about how they have seen God at work in their lives and others and I think that has been much healthier. I think music has been decentred as a congregation. I don't think music has necessarily been as central to some other places.

There has been space for lament as well which is very important. We have had time to be real with God in prayer and with one another and seen the opportunity for the mask we wear to be set aside or smashed in some cases. And I think that has been really helpful, for when we are real with God and with each other, then God can work through us.

I think as we see God in the people we engage with, we are encountering him in people of colour, people who are struggling to find food,

there is a sense of engaging with God as we encounter his people.

I am thinking about God as Creator but seeing God as artist. Seeing God as Redeemer, so I am seeing God as a freedom fighter, as first responder. I'm also seeing God as Sustainer, as life partner and also as birth partner, as I feel new things are growing in this season. Its challenging and difficult but through the process new things are emerging.

For me and I know others, there has been more time close to nature. God as creator, seeing God's handprint in nature, connecting with God is massively important. I'm thinking of God in that creative sense as gardener, so those that have had plants, potted indoor plants, nurturing any plants, taking care of those things has been massively helpful. I think there has been an artistic side. Myself – I'm not artistic. But what I have found that has emerged in this time is that I have started baking. I haven't baked in 20 years! And now I find myself with a specialism that is vegan banana and walnut loaf cake. So, there is something about creating that draws us close to God as well as nature. They are hugely important parts of being contemplative.

What is God saying to you about His mission and how we are being invited to join in with what He's doing in the world?

I think what we have seen emerge in recent years, and maybe the pandemic has made it more obvious is movements. Movements like Extinction Rebellion, like Me Too, like Black Lives Matter. One of the central images for me has been that parable – we often call it the Good Samaritan but I have found in lockdown that I have referred to it as the love your neighbour parable. And for me one of the strong images has been that when we think of the priest, the Levite, walking on by and we have this battered, bruised person lying there.

And it's the Samaritan who has come to their rescue, that has been the first responder.

I have felt that some of those movements, Me Too, Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion. They have acted like the Samaritan. They have heard the cries; they have responded and the church has been the ones to walk on by. In the sense of not hearing those cries, not responding. And there are a variety of reasons for that. It may sound strange to the church to learn from movements that have secular roots like Extinction Rebellion, Me Too, Black Lives Matter and there are aspects of those movements that are extremely problematic for us so as Christians we need to reflect on it theologically. But what they do have is an ability to hear the cries of the battered, bruised, the oppressed.

As a church we should be the forerunners, we should be the responders and if we are not then perhaps, we need to hear that challenge of love your neighbour that Christ spoke about all those years ago. And if we feel uncomfortable that other groups are leading the way, then maybe we hear that parable in the way in which Jesus intended it. It was hard for the Jews of those days to hear of a Samaritan, who was not supposed to know and follow Christ like ways, to hear Jesus say 'well actually they are acting in a more Christ like way' than you are. It's incredibly hard for us to hear but maybe that's what we need to hear now.

What is God saying to you about His Church, and how we are being asked to reimagine our life together?

I think the image that has become a lot clearer for me around church in lockdown, is that we need to reclaim the idea of being pilgrims, co-pilgrims on a journey. I feel like we need to be helping each other to discern what the calling is on each of our lives: where do we need to be? How long do we need to be there for? Who are we meant to be serving?

Again, a pandemic has made it clear to us that we serve a global church and the interrelatedness of all of it. There is nothing like a pandemic to understand how interrelated we all are. Those who are not Christians have reflected on what world leaders who profess to be Christians have done. Whether that's the president of Brazil or the USA, non-Christians have asked: what does that say about the church? And so, we as church here have been impacted by what they have said and done.

As Baptists we are used to some degree of being autonomous, and what this pandemic has done has raised the importance of working together. I found that we as a congregation have been thinking more about who our partners are. There are organisations like BMS World Mission who have been on the periphery, so using a lot of their videos, having their voices speaking into our context when we assemble has been extremely important. I think the joint public issues team, their resources and some of their podcasts. I think even what has happened in Beirut, it's been interesting to hear what the ministers, the pastors have been saying there. Their hope is in the global church. Whatever movement you might want to think about that's happening worldwide, Black Lives Matter has been the cry of some. For me, hope is in the global church and how we respond.

What is God saying to you about His future for our Baptist movement? What visions, aspirations, dreams is He placing on your heart?

We describe ourselves as a movement but I feel as though there hasn't been much movement for quite a while, there is a lot stagnation. Congregations and churches are stuck. One of the reasons that I think we are stuck is that we haven't intentionally invested enough in growing leaders that reflect the social, ethnic backgrounds of our communities because we see life from the perspective that we find ourselves in.

As a black woman of Caribbean heritage, born and raised in Britain, I see the world through particular lens because of my experiences and how those experiences have been shaped by my identity. I see and bring things that only a black woman of Caribbean heritage could bring in this context. The focus needs to be on growing younger leaders. If we think about how society has changed in lockdown, if we then think, how has society changed in the last 20 years, we can see how some older leaders found it harder to adapt to technology. Some of the younger leaders have literally hit the ground running because it's what they are used to. The gospel doesn't stay still, we need to be prepared for what may emerge and happen as the pandemic has shown us.

So, I say that we need – in biblical terms – more Lydia's, more Timothy's. When I look at church history, I look at some of the freedom fighters like Sam Sharp – a Baptist deacon who led the rebellion in Jamaica that brought slavery to its knees. I think of people like Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr and the recent late John Lewis. John Lewis famously saying, 'we need to get ourselves in good trouble'. We need to raising leaders who understand and embrace that. When I think of Christ, he would have been regarded as someone who got in trouble in his day. I would say 'good trouble' using John Lewis' words. If we are going to be a movement that mobilises people, that hears the cries, of the oppressed, the battered, the bruised the we need leaders who are able to respond and recognise those cries. That's my hope – Timothy's, Lydia's, Sam Sharpe's, Rosa Parks', Martin Luther King Jr's, John Lewis' – I say more, more, more.

Song: O praise the name

VERSE 1: I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet

My Saviour on that cursed tree

VERSE 2: His body bound and drenched in
tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

CHORUS:

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

VERSE 3: Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

VERSE 4: He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus face

Communion

Acts 10.34-35

*I now realise how true it is that God does not show
favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who
fears him and does what is right.*

Risen Christ who shows no favouritism
to any people group or nation
and in whom we are able to see
our Creators desire to work
through people of all nations,
to heal and bring heavenly peace to earth

**ALL: We long to follow your example
and confess our need
to grow in this commitment.**

We recognise this table we eat and drink
from is a table open to all
who seek to follow in the ways of Christ.

In recognition of what this bread and wine has, does and will signify,

ALL: We will give thanks in prayer.

Creator God

What must it have been like for the son of humanity to share with his disciples about the suffering he was to endure, how he would be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, the scribes and be killed, and then go on to experience these things?

Thank you that this suffering was not the end of the story but after three days the son of humanity rose again.

We pause to take in and give thanks for the body given for us and blood poured out for us.

We draw inspiration from the apostle's selfless response of committing themselves to your message of an all nation as church, sacrificially working together to bring your heavenly healing and peace to earth.

In awe and wonder we will eat and drink of this table as a sign of us sharing to your message of an all nations church, sacrificially working together to bring your heavenly healing and peace to earth. Amen

We remember Christ that with your disciples you broke and blessed bread, you poured and blessed wine.

Feed us now as we eat and drink and seek to be witnesses to your sacrificial life, death and resurrection, as we await your promised return.

Share bread and wine

Faithful God

As we thank you that we have been fed at this table; we pray for people, places and situations facing division.

We think particularly of:

- racial injustice issues in the UK, in our communities, workplaces and churches.
- politicians and leaders trying to steer the UK through the Brexit process
- the USA in the upcoming election.

We pray for an outpouring of your wisdom, love, and peace through your all nations church to bring healing and transformation.

This we ask through Christ whose ways we seek to follow in the whole of our lives. Amen.

Song: UK Blessing

The Lord bless you
And keep you
The Lord make his face
to shine upon you
and be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face
towards you and give you peace
Alleluia. Amen