

20 September 2020, 11am  
*Christ Church New Southgate &  
Friern Barnet*

Please join with us at 11am to read this service together either in printed form, whatapp or via the youtube link on our website [www.christchurchnsfb.org](http://www.christchurchnsfb.org)

Each person in the church is assigned a deacon who will call you to see if you are alright in these times and to pray for you. Please feel free to call Ruth too if you wish – only happy to help!

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Welcome to our Harvest service on Sunday 20 September with communion. To take part in communion, please find something to eat and something to drink, whatever you have to hand.

**ALL: Creator God**  
**Thank you for all the food you give to us**

Thank you for crops that grow,  
and trees that blossom  
Thank you farmers, lorry drivers and  
supermarket workers

**Creator God**  
**Thank you for all the food you give to us**

Our reading today helps understand what God as our creator gives to us. He gives us hope and strength.

*Reading:* Isaiah 40.28-31 read by Francis

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He never grows tired or weary,  
No one understands his thoughts.  
<sup>29</sup> He strengthens those who are weak and tired;  
<sup>30</sup> Even those who are young grow weak,  
young men can fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup> but those who trust in the Lord for help  
will find their strength renewed.  
They will rise on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not get weary,  
they will walk and not grow faint.

*Hymn:* Guide me oh thou  
<https://youtu.be/CxRnauY8CLc?t=133>

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
hold me with Thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be Thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside:  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee.

*Prayer*  
God of faithfulness  
Your love gives us all we need  
With the fruits of the earth to enjoy

**ALL: Help us to be thankful  
for your gifts  
To use them wisely**

**And to share with others  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Harvest appeal for HAB*

This Harvest we are supporting the work of Homeless Action in Barnet – HAB. HAB opened in 1997, and this year there were 12,237 visits to the centre. Each of the 250 people who visit HAB weekly receive a welcome, food and a hot shower along with support to help overcome their issues and ultimately assist them in finding accommodation and their own independence.

HAB provides all of these additional services:

- Free internet access, and computers to use
- A clothes store
- Laundry facilities
- Someone to talk to who will listen
- Advocacy & Counselling
- Help to access housing advice
- Referral to winter night shelters & tenancy support
- Access to medical services including a GP and nurse
- Creative and wellbeing workshops

As you know in lockdown many homeless people were given temporary accommodation. HAB provided support and food packages to over 100 people in temporary accommodation. HAB have launched a Moving On Appeal to help people now to find long-term housing.

As we enter the next phase of the governments support program, the help needed is changing again. People are moving from temporary accommodation to longer term housing and need support with setting up in their new home. So, to get ready for this, HAB have launched the Moving On

Appeal which provides starter kits for homeless people by providing bedding and kitchenware.

So how can we help? If you would like to donate to the Moving on Appeal please follow the link on our website or visit [habcentre.org](http://habcentre.org)

Or we can give food to HAB. But I wonder what kind of food do they want? Let's play a classic memory game.

*All age activity:* Memory game.

<https://youtu.be/CxRnauY8CLc?t=423>

Short video with the following items on display and then covered.

- Microwavable rice pouches
- Pot/packet noodles
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Stir-in sauces
- Biscuits
- Fruit pots

Please either drop off your food donation to the manse porch in the next week or take it to HAB between 9am-3pm at:

Homeless Action in Barnet  
36B Woodhouse Road  
London  
N12 0RG

We pray a blessing on HAB. Lord we pray for those who are homeless. Help them Lord to find the right place to live and to flourish. Help the workers at HAB to be renewed, to keep working in hope. May our gifts to them be an encouragement. Amen

## *Sermon*

I came across a sweet story in the Sun newspaper recently about a man called Jack who was begging for spare change on the street. He called out can you spare 50p? A woman called Toni stopped and gave him a few coins but then broke down in tears. When she explained she couldn't afford her electric bill, Jack gave her change back – you need it more he said.

Do you feel weary like Toni did? Tired of not having enough to get by, or weary of others asking for help, weary of covid-19 restrictions? Weary from six months of worrying about how to do ordinary things in PPE, weary of the news and anxious for any future lockdowns that may come.

The book of Isaiah is a record of the prophecies and speeches Isaiah gives to the people of God. Before the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples at Pentecost, this is how the Spirit of God spoke – through prophets just like Isaiah. It's written in about 8BC and from Jerusalem. Isaiah is talking to the people of God and they were weary. Weary, tired, beat up and spent. The people of God are not living at home. They have been forced to leave their country and work as slaves in Babylon. The people of God are oppressed and powerless, crushed and without hope. It is a bleak existence.

Into this weary-hearted nation, Isaiah speaks over many, many chapters, but here in this small part he shares a core message from the entire book:

The Lord is the everlasting God  
The Lord created the world.

Isaiah is reminding the people of God about God, about who he is and how he never changes. For God remains, God is sovereign, God is all powerful and has made

us all. Knowing these things is not a quick fix, but instead lays the strongest foundation for our life with God.

He instead encourages the people to wait on the Lord. To wait patiently on him and to rest trusting in him. In other words, he asks the people of God to be in a relationship with God. Good relationships are built on knowing each other, spending time with each other, patience and trust. I wonder how the last six months has been in your relationship with God? Maybe it's time for all of us to reset our relationship with God, to dwell in his presence and trust in him.

Jack and Toni started to become friends after meeting on the street. Over the years they built a strong and honest relationship and are now happily married. Jack said the 50p he gave to Toni was the best 50p he ever spent. Their relationship began with honesty. When we are honest with God about how weary we are, how frustrated we may be, he offers us his presence. He offers us a relationship with the creator of the world. If we allow him to still our fears, to trust him and to wait patiently on him he is able to offer us hope. Where we feel weak, he makes us strong. Where we feel tired he renews us. We are transformed by our relationship with God so much that we can fly like eagles. It is this trusting and resting in God's presence that sustains us and strengthens us.

As we learn to trust God even in our weary hearts, he offers strength in two forms. One is running and one is walking. There are extraordinary times when God provides enormous levels of power to us to do incredible acts of kindness, witness and service for him. And then there is the more regular kind. For as much as God restores, renews and enables us to run, he also sustains our everyday walk in our everyday lives. For every journey we have to make

wearing a mask, with every pump of hand sanitiser, for every complex one-way system in a building or shop – he can sustain us. For every challenging friend, neighbour or family member – he can sustain us, God can help us.

May each of us know God's goodness today, may each of us rest in his presence, be restored by his peace and so know his strength to walk and not be weary.

Those who trust in the Lord for help, will find their strength renewed. Amen

### *Communion*

God has made us a people:  
**we have been shaped by God's will.**

Jesus calls us together:  
**we meet in Jesus' name.**

The Spirit binds us together:  
**and leads us into truth.**

Our ordinary tables are laid  
with something to eat  
and something to drink  
We come in faith to this meal, you and I,  
companions on the journey.  
Some of us fresh and eager,  
others weary, in need of nourishment.  
**All of us aware of our failings.**

Come now, don't worry,  
the Lord himself invites you.  
**Love welcomes us – we shall sit and eat.**

Creating and redeeming God,  
we give you thanks and praise.  
Your covenant of grace  
was made for our salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
We come this day  
to promise to God and to our church  
to watch over each other  
and to walk together before you

in ways known and still to be made known.

**Pour your Spirit upon us,  
help us to walk in your ways  
help us to trust and rest in you.  
Be our source of hope and strength  
for you are the everlasting Lord.  
Amen.**

It was the night of the Passover: Jesus and his friends were sharing supper together. While they eating he told them that one of them would betray him. They were appalled and protested saying 'Not I Lord, I would never betray you.' Jesus took some bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying 'Take this and eat. This is my body.' He took the cup of wine and after giving thanks passed it among them saying as they drank 'this is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. I will not drink again until the day comes when I drink with you in my father's Kingdom.'

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Creating and redeeming God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for your grace for:  
**all who know forgiveness,  
the weary who are refreshed,  
the hungry who are nourished,  
the captives who are set free**

Thank you that you chose  
to make us a part of your story.  
Thank you for Jesus Christ  
who revealed your love  
in his death and resurrection  
and who continues to share his life with us  
through bread and wine.  
Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit

**who sustains us in our walk together,  
helping us to watch over each other,  
to pray for one another,**

**and to work together for justice and truth.**

*Let us share bread and wine.*

As we have shared a meal even through our screens, we now are still and remember those in need of help at HAB and in our community. We pray for Lynda who has fractured her wrist, we pray that you would heal her Lord. We pray for our world, for those struggling with Covid-19, for those fighting wild fires and the effects of hurricanes. Lord please bless and sustain your world. Amen.

**Living God, enable us to be a church:  
committed to the way of Christ,  
faithful to the call of Christ,  
discerning the mind of Christ,  
offering the welcome of Christ,  
growing in the likeness of Christ,  
engaging in the mission of Christ,  
in the world that belongs to Christ.**

And so may we show  
through word and actions  
that Jesus is not dead,  
but risen and present among us.  
**Hallelujah! Amen.**

*Blessing*

May we know God's renewing strength  
today.  
Amen

*Song:* James Wilson & Brooke Staten – Wait  
on the Lord

<https://youtu.be/WcnIRfNJ3eE>

There's not a mountain too tall  
There's not a problem so small  
That Jesus can't resolve  
In time He'll get involved  
Cause our God

He cares about us

*Wait on the Lord  
And He'll renew your strength*

There's not a night too dark  
A journey too long to embark  
Jesus will see you through  
In time He'll make you new  
Cause our God  
He cares about us

He's ordering  
He's ordering your steps  
You've got to wait  
You've got to wait  
I'm gonna wait on You Jesus  
I'm not turning back now