

*Christ Church New  
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

*24 July 2022*

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*Welcome*

Song: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God  
almighty,  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,  
Who was, and is, and is to come,  
Who was, and is, and is to come,  
Lift up His name with the sound of singing,  
Lift up His name in all the earth.  
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,  
For He is worthy to be praised

Prayer

Song: Who breaks the power of sin and  
darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy  
thunder?  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings

*This is amazing grace  
This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life  
That I would be set free  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for  
All that You've done for me*

Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King of glory  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice

Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of glory, the King above all kings  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the  
grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the  
grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the  
grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy, worthy, worthy

*Active Apostle Creed*

Song: Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy one is here  
Come bow before him now  
In reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on Holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy one is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with Holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal  
To minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.

*Activity: Timeline jumble*

Match the event and date:

Jeroboam becomes king

Amos becomes prophet  
Hosea becomes prophet  
Isaiah becomes prophet  
Northern Kingdom falls

793 BC, 760BC, 753BC, 740BC, 722BC

*Kids Activity sheet*

*Reading: Hosea 11.1-11 by Helen Ogbemudia*

11 “When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

2 But the more they were called,  
the more they went away from me.[a]  
They sacrificed to the Baals  
and they burned incense to images.

3 It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
taking them by the arms;  
but they did not realize  
it was I who healed them.

4 I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with ties of love.

To them I was like one who lifts  
a little child to the cheek,  
and I bent down to feed them.

5 “Will they not return to Egypt  
and will not Assyria rule over them  
because they refuse to repent?

6 A sword will flash in their cities;  
it will devour their false prophets  
and put an end to their plans.

7 My people are determined to turn from  
me.

Even though they call me God Most  
High,  
I will by no means exalt them.

8 “How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, Israel?

How can I treat you like Admah?  
How can I make you like Zeboyim?  
My heart is changed within me;  
all my compassion is aroused.

9 I will not carry out my fierce anger,  
nor will I devastate Ephraim again.

For I am God, and not a man—  
the Holy One among you.

I will not come against their cities.

10 They will follow the Lord;  
he will roar like a lion.

When he roars,

his children will come trembling from the  
west.

11 They will come from Egypt,  
trembling like sparrows,

from Assyria, fluttering like doves.

I will settle them in their homes,”  
declares the Lord.

What is God like

*Sermon: God is bound to us in love*

When I grew up in the east end of London, every older woman I knew wore an apron. Aprons to cover your good clothes, aprons to work in, to do dirty jobs like shovelling coal from the outhouse to the fire, to peel potatoes and to scrub floors with heavy brushes. Having an apron was a symbol of running a home, running a home, and not having anyone else to do it for you. Aprons were worn by mothers, mothers with small children running around the house, hiding under an apron when the doorbell went, and an apron home to many handkerchiefs or tissues to wipe and clean a dirty face or nose. Once grown to be an adult, others might say ‘it’s time to cut the apron strings.’ What does this strange English phrase mean? It means it’s time to leave your mother, and your father and start making your own decisions, it’s time to set up your own home and choose how you want to live. It’s not a compliment. It means that you have stayed too long under your parent’s control and need to stand tall and become independent.

Here in Hosea 11, we learn about some different kinds of ties or strings between us and God our heavenly parent. We hear that God has cared for his people like a parent who calls his children, protects them, helps them to learn how to walk and gently bends down to feed them. This God is the god who nurtures us in his arms and heals us. And with this heavenly parent, God’s people were led

with cords of human kindness and with ties of love. And with this heavenly parent, today we are led with cords of human kindness and with ties of love. Hosea is calling Israel; the people of God to listen, to remember God's care and compassion for them. He is reminding them of his saving and liberating power, God called his people out of Egypt – out of slavery in Egypt and across the red sea led by Moses. And God calls his people his son. Here son does not mean that daughters rejected. Here son means that God's people are his heirs, those who inherit his kingdom.

Some of us have had good parents, ones who have cared and loved us. Others of us have had bad parents or parents that have been absent and far away from us. No matter what your personal experience of your parents have been, how you find parenting now, or your desire to be a parent, all of us have one perfect parent: God. And all of us are created and called by him into this world, and all of us are loved by him and adored by him. And all of us have a tie between us and God that is one of kindness and great, great, great love. This is the love that will not let us go, this the love that seeks us and always wants us to thrive and be happy. God is bound to us in love. Bound to love us, bound to care for us, bound to save us.

Hosea spoke just after Amos, his people were oppressing the poor, worshipping idols, and obsessing about worship that honoured themselves. Hosea calls the people of God to again remember the God who loves them, to remember that they are bound to God with cords of kindness and love.

We don't see many images of God as our father in the Old Testament, but we do see the father appear more and more in the New Testament. As Jesus describes God being like a patient waiting father, waiting for his child to come home, it is that same bond of love and kindness that keeps the prodigal son's father waiting on the hill, waiting to see him.

It is the cords of kindness and ties of love, that pull the father and son to the warmest embrace and it is that same love and acceptance that each of us can find in God when we return to him. No matter how long we have been away, no matter how far we have been, or how stupid we might be, there is a tie of love and kindness between God who has given each of us life, and this string can never, ever, ever be cut.

*Reflective Activity: Make a Bracelet*

Use string or fuzzy stick and beads to create a bracelet remembering God's love and kindness and those who have been kind to 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.

*Prayers for world by Clare Jenkins*

Song: 1 O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee.  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that follows all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee.  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee.  
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red,  
life that shall endless be.

*Blessing*