

Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet

29 January 2023

Welcome

Song: From life's beginning
To all eternity
There is a song to be sung
In deepest oceans
Across the galaxies
In every nation and tongue

*Let praise resound
Let praise resound, all around
Creation, sing with one voice
To the glory of the Maker of all things
Let praise resound*

Come, every creature
Alive at his command
Join the eternal refrain
Sing, joyful mountains
You rivers, clap your hands
All nature, breathe out his name

Sing together: holy, holy, holy is the Lord
Glory to the one who lives and reigns for
evermore

Sing together: holy, holy, holy is the Lord
Glory to the one who lives and reigns for
evermore
Let praise resound

So join the anthem
Let every voice be heard
Come lift your praises up high
As songs of worship
Ring out across the earth
As heaven sings in reply

Song: 1 All who are thirsty, come to the Lord,
all who are hungry, feed on his word;
buy without paying food without price,
eat with thanksgiving God's sacrifice.

2 Why spend your money, yet have no bread;
why work for nothing? Trust God instead!
He will provide you richest of food:
come to the waters, drink what is good.
All who are thirsty come...

3 Call on God's mercy while he is near,
turn from your evil, come without fear;
ask him for pardon, grace will abound!
This is the moment he can be found.

All who are thirsty come...

4 Where once were briars, flowers will grow,
where lives were barren, rivers will flow:
praise to our Saviour, grace and renown
ours is the blessing, his be the crown!
All who are thirsty come...

Reading: John 1.29-34

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.’ ³¹I did not know who he would be, but I came baptizing with water in order to make him known to the people of Israel.”

³²And John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stay on him. ³³I still did not know that he was the one, but God, who sent me to baptize with water, had said to me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and stay on a man; he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I have seen it,” said John, “and I tell you that he is the Son of God.”

Song: I'm gonna trust in God
I'm gonna trust in Jesus

Without shame and without fear
I'm gonna fix my eyes
On the hope of glory
For His day is drawing near

VERSE 2

How great is the love of God
How steady is His hand
To guide me through this world
And though I am weak in Him I stand
And you will hear me say today
In faith I'm gonna trust in God

VERSE 3

Now when the cares of life
Seem overwhelming
And my heart is sinking down
I'm gonna lift my hands
To the One who'll help me
To the One who holds my crown

Lord's prayer

Sermon: Seeing Jesus

Where's Wally? Books are a big favourite in our house. In these large books, the whole aim of the book is to spot Wally on each page. Wally is a cartoon character with a crazy red and white stripey hat and big black glasses. Every page has hundreds if not thousands of Wally's in different positions but there is only one real one per page. To spot him you have to know what he looks like.

Take a look at this 'where is Jesus?' image. I made it myself, I think you can tell. See if you can spot Jesus?

In our reading today we heard John the Baptist calling the crowds to repent, calling people to baptism, we hear him calling out 'there is the lamb of God'. We looked at this story a few weeks ago, we thought about what Jesus as the lamb of God might mean. Today on this baptism day, we are thinking about John's testimony about Jesus. John knows who Jesus is because God tells him. God tells

John that he will know Jesus because he will see the Spirit come down and stay on him. The Spirit does not leave Jesus but rests, remains and stays on him and in him.

Imagine this situation. The minister has eaten the last chocolate biscuit after church. Jane notices that there the last biscuit is missing, and there is not one left for a visitor. What does she do? She asks did anyone see where that biscuit went? Or can I have a witness? What might a witness say? I saw chocolate crumbs in the minister's hand? When we are a witness, our testimony is what we have seen. And the bible is full of eye-witness stories, telling us today what the people saw. When we testify, we say what we have seen.

Have you spotted Jesus yet? Well I hope so, here he is. We can see his because there is a dove resting on him. What did John see? He saw the Spirit coming down onto Jesus and resting on him. It doesn't mean that there was always a strange looking bird hovering over Jesus but it does mean that the Spirit of God did not leave his presence.

You know some witnesses like to become the story themselves. Don't you know what I saw, only I saw this, I have special sight. Anyone else might have sold the story to the daily mail – you can imagine the headline: guess what the prophet saw ... but no every single time John points to Jesus. My baptism with water, all that was to make him known. My baptism with water God told me to do it, to make him known. John the Baptist says, Jesus existed way before me, in fact before the creation of the world. And most importantly John says he saw the Spirit stay on Jesus at his baptism, and that Jesus is the son of God. Every single time in this story, John points to Jesus. His story is about waiting for Jesus, his testimony is about seeing Jesus and recognising who he is. He proclaims Jesus – lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Today we celebrate the baptism of a member of our congregation. She will testify to Jesus, to his power, his grace and his love. She will tell us of how she has seen Jesus at work in her life. Her story is all about Jesus and making him known.

The greatest blessing of God is that the Holy Spirit is given to all Christians, all people, all ages, all nationalities. And that gift of God to Jesus is also given to each of us today in order that we might testify to his love, hope and mercy. All that is needed is that we spot where Jesus is in our world, remain in the Spirit's presence and see how we can make him known today.

Song: 1 Tell all the world of Jesus ,
our Saviour, Lord and King;
and let the whole creation
of his salvation sing:
proclaim his glorious greatness,
in nature and in grace,
creator and redeemer,
the Lord of time and space.

2 Tell all the world of Jesus,
that everyone may find
the joy of his forgiveness
true peace of heart and mind.
Proclaim his perfect goodness,
his deep, unfailing care,
his love so rich in mercy,
a love beyond compare.

3 Tell all the world of Jesus,
that everyone may know
of his almighty triumph
defeating every foe.
Proclaim his coming glory,
when sin is overthrown,
and he shall reign in splendour
the King upon his throne!
Proclaim... greatness!
Proclaim... goodness!
Proclaim... glory!
Greatness! Goodness!
Glory! Jesus!

Baptism

Prayer for Iran

Song: The greatest day in history
Death is beaten, You have rescued me
Sing it out, Jesus is alive
The empty cross, the empty grave
Life eternal, You have won the day
Shout it out, Jesus is alive
He's alive

*Oh, happy day, happy day
You washed my sin away
Oh, happy day, happy day
I'll never be the same
Forever I am changed*

When I stand in that place
Free at last, meeting face to face
I am yours, Jesus, You are mine
Endless joy, perfect peace
Earthly pain finally will cease
Celebrate, Jesus is alive
He's alive

Oh no, forever I am changed
Oh, what a glorious day
What a glorious way
That You have saved me
And oh, what a glorious day
What a glorious name

Song: See, what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with
light
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"
See God's salvation plan
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in
sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow, she turns from the empty
tomb

Hears a voice speaking, calling her name
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
This voice that spans the years
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace
to us
Will sound 'til He appears
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with
certainty
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and
authority!
And we are raised with Him
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has
conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

Blessing