

*Christ Church New  
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

*29 January 2023*

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*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 briers, 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*

<sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This 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.' <sup>31</sup>I did not know who he would be, but I came baptizing with water in order to make him known to the people of Israel."

<sup>32</sup>And John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stay on him. <sup>33</sup>I 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.' <sup>34</sup>I 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 it him 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