

Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet

29 May 2022

Welcome

1. Come you thankful people come,

Prayer

Song: Build Your kingdom here

Active Apostles Creed

Song: Our God is a great big God

Reading: John 17:20-26, by Elijah Kirby

²⁰“I pray not only for them, but also for those who believe in me because of their message. ²¹ I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me. ²² I gave them the same glory you gave me, so that they may be one, just as you and I are one: ²³ I in them and you in me, so that they may be completely one, in order that the world may know that you sent me and that you love them as you love me.

²⁴“Father! You have given them to me, and I want them to be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory, the glory you gave me; for you loved me before the world was made. ²⁵ Righteous Father! The world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you sent me. ²⁶ I made you known to them, and I will continue to do so, in order that the love you have for me may be in them, and so that I also may be in them.”

Reflective activity: Spiral Prayers
flamecreative.com

Write a prayer to God for someone you know who needs God's help. Cut along the lines till you reach the middle of the circle. Hold up the spiral. The spiral shows how our prayers go to God, and how God comes to us in prayer. In a similar way, Jesus came to the earth from God and returns or ascends to God again.

Song: There's a love that seeks us,

Sermon: Dancing with God, Ruth Moriarty

If you have ever been on a date from meeting someone online, you will know that a person's picture can be different from reality. If you've attended a meeting online only, you will be surprised at a person's height whenever you meet them face to face. If you have chatted to your neighbour in the street, you will know them far more once you are invited into their home.

In our bible story today, we get to know more about Jesus. Before this part of John's gospel, we know all about Jesus the healer, the miracle worker, the preacher, the trouble maker. But now we get a sneak peek into Jesus' relationship with his Father. Maybe it is surprising to you?

Let's think about v21 May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you.

Part1 : May they be in us. The 'They' is the church, all Christians then, now and in the future. Us – is Jesus and God the Father. May the church be in God, may the church share in the life of God.

Part 2: Just as you are in me, and I am in you. Here we overhear a little of what life is like between Jesus and the Father. We hear that the son of God and the Father are close. You are in me, and I am in you. The mission of God is the mission of Jesus, the love of God is the love of Jesus, the hope of God is the

hope of Jesus. If you know one, you know the other. This is a beautiful image of a close relationship between father and son, a caring relationship and one that shares a life together.

Jesus' prayer is that Christians may be in us, as God the Father is in Jesus and Jesus in him.

It's an amazing image isn't it, for Christians to be welcomed so warmly into the life of God. It reminds us of God's great love for us and his trust in us to share life with him.

But this prayer is like an agenda that has an action point, Jesus prays that we the church would be in God as God is in him and he in God so that we may be unified, that the church would be one. And that the joint, unified church would be a witness to the world.

Some families keep themselves to themselves, not with God. Some people keep their riches to themselves, not with God. Some churches don't like sharing, not with God.

Jesus calls all of us, every Christian here and every Christian on the planet to share in his life, and so be a signpost to his glory.

At the recent Baptist Assembly, Alan Donaldson spoke – you may remember he and his wife did a jive dance on stage to show how we are connected to God and each other as Christians.

In Jesus prayer, we see the moves that God makes – God loves Jesus before the world was made, God sends his son Jesus to the earth, God shares his mission with Jesus and invites each of us to share with him to, to share in his glory and grace, to share in God's love and witness to the world.

Theologian Paul Fiddes talks about the Christian life as one that is:

[The Christian life is] open to the presence of God and can open a door for others into the eternal movements of love and justice that are there ahead of us, and before us, and

embracing us. This invitation can be felt like the invitation to a dance, but sometimes like the raw edges of a wound. This is participation in God. This is theology.

Paul Fiddes, Participating in God (2001)

In this tiny prayer in the middle of John's gospel we get a glimpse of how Jesus knows God and God knows Jesus. Their relationship is seen in how they act together, how God loved Jesus before the world was made, how he sends Jesus to this world in love, and how God offers love to every single person today. It also reminds us that God gives Jesus a mission which he accepts to enter suffering, to die on the cross. Part of being a Christian is to know God's love, and part of being a Christian is to know pain and to discover God's presence there, for in pain and in joy, God offers us a shared life with him to participate in his life through the power of the Spirit the gift of God who sustains us.

We got invited to a wedding recently. The RSVP card had this line on it, 'I promise to dance if you play ...'

Being a Christian is not just about trusting Jesus, but bravely standing up to dance whatever the tune is, promising to follow his lead for the glory of God.

Active Lord's prayer

Our Father in heaven, arms up
hallowed be your name, banner shape
your kingdom come, hands together out to side
your will be done, side, palms side out
on earth as in heaven. Palms down & up
Give us today our daily bread. Hand together cupped
Forgive us our sins brush right hand
as we forgive those who sin against us. brush left hand
Lead us not into temptation fist to chest across

but deliver us from evil. Other fist to chest
across
For the kingdom, arms wide, palms side
the power, fists lifted
and the glory are yours rain fingers
now and for ever. Right hand pointing, left
hand spiral finger out

Amen. Hands clap above head

Song: Turn your eyes

Prayers for the world led by Mary Adjei

Song: Lord of the church

Blessing

May God the Father, who is one with the
Lord Jesus,
hold us in tender unity with himself and with
each other,
now, as we wait for the gift of the Spirit,
and in all eternity. Amen.

Spiral shape for
prayers

