

31 January 2021

*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

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.

Welcome to Christ Church New Southgate and Friern Barnet today.

Reading: Psalm 111

Read by Tanya Forward

111 Praise the Lord!

With all my heart I will thank the Lord
in the assembly of his people.

²How wonderful are the things
the Lord does!

All who are delighted with them want to
understand them.

³All he does is full of honour and majesty;
his righteousness is eternal.

⁴The Lord does not let us forget his
wonderful actions;
he is kind and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who honour
him;

he never forgets his covenant.

⁶He has shown his power to his people
by giving them the lands of foreigners.

⁷In all he does he is faithful and just;
all his commands are dependable.

⁸They last for all time;
they were given in truth and
righteousness.

⁹He set his people free

and made an eternal covenant with them.

Holy and mighty is he!

¹⁰The way to become wise is to honour
the Lord;

he gives sound judgment to all who obey
his commands.

He is to be praised forever.

Apostle's creed active

ALL: We believe in God,

(Point up)

the Father

(Cross two fingers from both hands)

almighty,

(Raise two fists)

who sent

(Point a finger)

Jesus

(Touch each palm)

into

(praying hands)

the world.

(raise hands to side)

He came as a baby

(rock a baby)

Born of the holy spirit

Was crucified,

(Lift arms to side)

died

(Drop head)

And was buried.

(Curl up)

On the third day

(Hold 3 fingers up)

He rose again from the dead

(Raise arm up)

He ascended into heaven

(Lift both arms above head)

Where he prays for us continually.

(Praying hands)

Praise the lord

(Lift hands up high)

Halleluia!

Reading: Mark 1.21-28

²¹ Jesus and his disciples came to the town of Capernaum, and on the next Sabbath Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people who heard him were amazed at the way he taught, for he wasn't like the teachers of the Law; instead, he taught with authority.

²³ Just then a man with an evil spirit came into the synagogue and screamed, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Are you here to destroy us? I know who you are—you are God's holy messenger!"

²⁵ Jesus ordered the spirit, "Be quiet, and come out of the man!"

²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man hard, gave a loud scream, and came out of him. ²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they started saying to one another, "What is this? Is it some kind of new teaching? This man has authority to give orders to the evil spirits, and they obey him!"

²⁸ And so the news about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the province of Galilee.

All age activity: Shape search
www.tath.co.uk

In this story, Jesus meets lots of different types of people in the synagogue. People who were ready to listen to what he taught and others who were sad and needed healing. All of the people were searching for God.

Let's be searchers today. We're going to go on a scavenger hunt for different shapes and then use them to pray. If you can't find a shape, don't worry you can draw it. Can you

find a circle, square, rectangle, triangle, pentagon and a star and bring them back? On your marks, ready, steady, go!

Circle – We remember the whole world. We pray especially those who are sick with coronavirus. Please God help them to get better.

Square – We remember everyone stuck at home. Please God help us to feel safe and loved.

Rectangle – We remember big buildings like supermarkets and delivery centres. Please protect our keyworkers God.

Triangle – We remember churches. We pray for all churches and ministers, thank you that they are still working to share your love and hope.

Pentagon – We remember global leaders. Dear God, please help all those who lead countries as they make difficult decisions and work to protect us.

Star – We remember your light. Thank you God that you still love us and offer us light in these tough times. Help us not to forget your hope in Jesus.

If you'd like to draw around your shapes, you can then turn them into a picture that is a prayer to God.

Hymn: Dear Lord and Father of mankind

1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,

the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow Thee.

- 3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!
- 4 With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of Thy call,
as noiseless let Thy blessing fall
as fell Thy manna down.
- 5 Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace.
- 6 Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and
fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Prayer:

God of yesterday
We knew you then
Your promises; your words;
Your walking among us.
But yesterday is gone.
And so, today, we are in need of change.
Change
And change us.
Help us see life now
Not through yesterday's stories
But through today's
Amen.

*From Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela
Community, Padraig O Tuama*

Sermon: Be still – Jesus is our healer

I've seen a church service interrupted on several times by individuals with their own particular issues. As a student I attended an evening service at St Aldates in Oxford who have an amazing ministry with the homeless, unfortunately one of these men had significant mental health issues and began shouting about the anti-Christ in the middle of communion. He was carried out by two burly church wardens. Some were deeply troubled by a relationship breakdown, others cracked and broken in different ways and yet it strikes me as significant that each person making a scene and shouting in the church is in exactly the right place. For as the church proclaims Christ, risen and king of Kings, we proclaim a Saviour for those who need it the most. For those who need to hear his voice and are in their own way searching for it.

This small story at the beginning of Mark's gospel happens in another backwater place – Capernaum. Both Nazareth and Capernaum were not trendy – let's say the Luton and Milton Keynes to London. But it was there that Jesus enters the synagogue and began to teach. And they were amazed, for he taught with authority.

As a young person writing essays for the first time, we will read a few books and try and explain what each person said and which is the most compelling argument and why. If we choose to go on in academic work, the biggest difference is this: now the examiners what to know what you think. Your voice suddenly matters.

Jesus taught not like the teachers of the law, the scribes were biblical scholars (see Nehemiah 8 for their story)– they weren't saying anything wrong, but they were reporting what the scriptures said, what Moses said, what a respected Rabbi said. Jesus spoke and taught with his own voice.

He didn't only refer to the scriptures, he taught with authority. His voice spoke truth.

In the gospels there are two different kinds of healing stories, one for those who are physically healed from uncleanness and evil and one for those who are struggling with demons. The two types are different, the first is about impurity and the second is about satanic power. There are plenty of Christian books written about the role of the demon possessed in the scriptures and our modern understanding of mental health, but here Mark tells this small story to help us understand the bigger story. Here the voice of the demon shows us the battleline of Christ. The demon knows who Jesus is and he knows he has come to destroy them. This story is about the identity of the man who is Jesus Christ whose very voice has such authority to teach and to cast out demons. This man, this voice is about to change history.

On another day Jesus got into a boat and a storm was whipped up, the disciples feared death and woke Jesus up, who said : be quiet to the storm. And the wind and the waves obeyed him. In the calm of the synagogue of Mark 1, a new celebrity preacher has been born. The crowds are amazed and news is spreading fast about him gathering speed like a storm, but just as quickly they will turn against him.

As the calm is interrupted by this poor man demon possessed, a storm rises. Jesus identity is shown to be as sent from God, a messenger from the throne room of heaven. Now the crowds are wondering if this authority is from the realms of heaven, from God himself. Mark opens his gospel account with all his cards on the table – Jesus Christ, son of God. So the demon-possessed man now adds to what we know of his identity. Son of God, speaking with authority to teach and to heal,

for with Jesus words – be quiet, come out and the man is restored.

The demons allow us to understand that Jesus didn't come just for one man in a synagogue, but he enters into both our world and a cosmic battle. Jesus didn't just come to backwater towns and say amazing things, heal the sick and turn water into wine. He came to go to calvary. He came to take part in a cosmic battle of which he is the winner. As Christ dies on the cross, he puts an end to the authority of evil and rises again to new life and puts evil in its place. And even then, we don't hear so many words from Jesus, we just hear: it is finished.

There is no technique for the healing of this man, no special symbolic act or spell, just simply the words of Christ – be quiet, come out.

Jesus' words speak life. His words bring healing. His words bring wholeness.

His words are just the same to us today. To all of us who are troubled, worried, anxious and unable to rest – he says be still, be quiet. May all our strivings cease, in the beauty of his peace. Be quiet with questions, be quiet with worries, be quiet with troubles of brokenness, come out to me and I will give you rest. I will bring healing, I will bring hope, I will give you new life.

Come to Christ today, hear him speak with you, hear his words clear and simple and life changing – be quiet. Be quiet. Be quiet. For at his feet, all of our worries fade. At his feet, every concern, is stilled. What might that mean for you and for me today? How can God heal you this morning? How might we be still with Jesus?

I ran a youth club once at my home church in Buckhurst Hill. We noticed that whatever was not resolved from school in the week, ended

up exploding on Friday nights normally at the tuck shop. There is something about church that is similar, when we find ourselves at the end of a dull but demanding week, we are faced with a wash up of the week. Here today we will have time to confront all that has happened since last Sunday, cross words shared, bad deeds done, kind acts forgotten and gossip delighted in.

Here today we too will confront the evil of our day; of brokenness, sickness, discrimination, greed and lust, as we intercede for the world.

Into our lives and into our world, Jesus Christ says: Be quiet. And he calls us by name to follow him, to be made whole and to know new life. New life that is not bound by brokenness but delights in healing. How does Jesus word speak to us today?

Jesus stills our troubles, and changes our lives with his voice. Let us be quiet and allow his voice to bring new life and healing today now.

Intercession

This week we met an awful marker in the fight against Covid 19. Here is a short lament inspired by Pete Grieg (24/7 Prayer). Please would you say the words in bold.

One hundred thousand deaths.
Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

A story told 100,000 times of loved-ones lost; prayers unanswered; hospitals too full; funerals too empty; millions of broken hearts.
Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

God help me if I become numb to this tragedy.
Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Shake my selfish senses with the urgency of this hour

Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Take my despair and make it a prayer; the necessary lament of love.

Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Lord as we are seeking you today and everyday, we lament the loss of life seen here in the UK and around the world. We ask for your protection for those in our community who are unwell, Lord please heal Val and Kevin, and sustain those who are grieving: for Sherri, Jane and Sue. Amen

The Baptist Union has echoed a call to prayer endorsed by many other denominations across the UK in asking us to pray for the NHS. Here is a short video interview between a matron and Diane Watts who works for the Baptists Union.

<https://youtu.be/tIkRqd6tJIE>

Prayer

Lord we pray for reprieve for NHS staff.
Lord we pray that each person working in care and medical services might know moments of grace, courage and laughter too.
Amen.

Notices

One thing we can do as a response to this prayer is to take the Covid vaccine when it is offered to us. I know many of you have already had it, but some of you are unsure. The Covid 19 vaccine is safe.

John Campbell of Tottenham URC has written a short piece about taking the

vaccine. Please read the email sent around to you. John argues that Jesus calls us to follow him and trust in him but expected his followers to be sensible and to use the resources available to them.

May each of us share in this practical faith that God has granted to us.

Lent

We are hosting evening prayer on Thursdays on zoom beginning on 25 Feb. Please contact Ruth if you would like a devotional book for lent. This year we are following *Worship in the Wilderness* by Engage Worship which will link to the sermon series as well. Books are available for the suggested donation of £2.50.

Blessing

May the voice of Christ assure us of his presence with us today and always.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen