

*Christ Church New  
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

*7 August 2022*

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*Welcome*

*Song: All creatures of our God and King*

All creatures of our God and king  
Lift up your voices and with us sing  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Thou burning with golden beam  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven a long  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice  
Ye light of evening find a voice  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Thou flowing water pure and clear  
Make music for thy Lord to hear  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Thou fire so masterful and bright  
That gives to man both warmth and light  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

*Song: Friend of God*

*I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God He calls me friend*

Who am I that You are mindful of me  
That You hear me when I call  
Is it true that You are thinking of me  
How You love me it's amazing

Who am I that You are mindful of me  
That You hear me when I call  
Is it true that You are thinking of me  
How You love me  
It's amazing, it's amazing, it's amazing

Prayer

*Based on Psalm 30*

Heavenly Father we come to you,  
in need of your gentle touch.

**Sing praises to the Lord,  
O you his faithful ones.**

Heavenly Father we bring before you,  
a world which excludes people.

**Sing praises to the Lord,  
O you his faithful ones.**

Heavenly Father, we choose to come  
and hear you in word and prayer.

**Sing praises to the Lord,  
O you his faithful ones.**

Hear us O lord, and be gracious to us.

**Sing praises to the Lord,  
O you his faithful ones,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.  
Amen.**

*Song: All who are thirsty*

All who are thirsty  
And all who are weak  
Come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the streams of life

Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of His mercy  
As deep cries out to deep, we sing

*Come Lord Jesus, come  
Come Lord Jesus, come*

*Come Lord Jesus, come  
Come Lord Jesus, come*

*Reading: Mark 1.40-45*

<sup>40</sup> A man suffering from a dreaded skin disease came to Jesus, knelt down, and begged him for help. “If you want to,” he said, “you can make me clean.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus was filled with pity, and reached out and touched him. “I do want to,” he answered. “Be clean!” <sup>42</sup> At once the disease left the man, and he was clean. <sup>43</sup> Then Jesus spoke sternly to him and sent him away at once, <sup>44</sup> after saying to him, “Listen, don't tell anyone about this. But go straight to the priest and let him examine you; then in order to prove to everyone that you are cured, offer the sacrifice that Moses ordered.”

<sup>45</sup> But the man went away and began to spread the news everywhere. Indeed, he talked so much that Jesus could not go into a town publicly. Instead, he stayed out in lonely places, and people came to him from everywhere.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
we think of the times we have chosen not to love those who are different from us.

Father, **forgive us.**

Heavenly Father,  
we think of the times we have failed to touch people in their need.

Father, **forgive us.**

Heavenly Father,  
we think of the times we have not listened to you and gone our own way.

Father, **forgive us.**

**Transform our lives  
so that we may bring your healing and**

**loving presence to all we meet;  
we ask this through your Son who  
touched and healed.**

**Amen.**

Lord's prayer active

Sermon: Nits and Jesus

Who here has ever had nits? Or has known someone else with nits?! Who here has had to have nits removed? Who had had to do the removing?! Oh they are terrible aren't they, icky white eggs in your hair. The other horrible thing about nits, is as soon as you mention nits, people start to itch, even now me mentioning nits is making my head itch!

Now what happens if you're the first person in your class to get nits? What kind of things do people say to you? Oh you have beautiful hair? Do they heck! You lose all your friends, no-one wants to play with you. Then you have to tell the teacher, and then a letter goes round to the parents, and everyone gets treated with nit lotions & combs. Even if you do get them all out, no-one believes you!

Only when the school nurse says – yes your head is clean of nits, do people start to talk to you again, let you play football or let you be in their gang.

Now having nits is bad. But what if you couldn't get rid of your nits? What if it meant you couldn't go to school, get a job, go into shops ... heck even your family don't want much to do with you?

Well having nits all the time is the best way I can describe how my disease affected me. For a while I didn't know what was wrong. The doctor told me what it was: leprosy. I refused to believe it; I didn't tell anyone. I'd be thrown out of town, I'd certainly lose my

job at the school. I might infect my family, I didn't want to lose them.

Someone found out at work that I'd got it, then the letters came: your disease is a punishment from God, you must have done something awful in your life. One morning we woke up to find dog mess smeared all over our front door.

My boss was kind but said I really ought to go, it was then I started to think hard about my life, what was left of it. I realised that if my family was to have a life, I had to leave. I had to live far away from anyone else. It was like I was a walking dead woman. Supposedly alive, but in effect dead to any other person. No-one would come near me.

At the time I lived with a group of lepers, way outside the town. We heard that Jesus was nearby. Jesus was a celebrity, loads of people had started to follow him, listening to him. I was at rock bottom. I looked awful, I smelt, I didn't even look in a mirror. I hated myself. But Jesus' teachings rang true for me, he reminded me of the things I'd learnt at the synagogue. So for the first time in ages, I prayed. Not much happened. I'd stopped praying ages ago after God hadn't healed my skin. But I woke up the next morning, and thought I wonder if I can see him? I think he's the one, the one we've been waiting for. He could heal me!

So, I ran and fell at his feet and said lord only if you want to – you can make me clean. If he was the Messiah, the son of God, I knew he could heal me with just a word. But instead, he stretched out his hand and he touched me. I hadn't been touched for years.

His touch restored my life, he touched me and my skin was healed. He sent me to the priest to be checked over and I was restored. People used to call me unclean. I lived near no-one, I was barely living. And he brought

me back, back to life. Not just healed but my whole life back, now I could work again, live in the village and ... be part of my family again.

News got around that I was back home, healed and completely transformed. And so Jesus was hounded out of town by the crowds instead, he ended up in the lonely places I had been. He took my place. He restored me and took on my pain. Jesus transformed my life at the cost of his.

Apparently mark wants to include my story in his book. He says it will help people understand that Jesus wanted everyone to be welcome in his kingdom. Everyone including the unclean, sad, lonely. Religious people often say – you have sinned so you can't be part of our church, because we're holy. Jesus didn't talk like that. Jesus came close to me, touched me and healed me. Jesus wants everyone in his kingdom, even those people with nits.

Song : Living hope

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation, I turned to heaven  
And spoke your name into the night  
Then through the darkness  
Your loving kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless  
grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven  
The king of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful savior, I'm yours forever  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

*Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the roaring lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the roaring lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Jesus, yours is the victory, whoa!

### *Storybox Communion*

The church is full of stories, Christians tell stories all the time, but there is one story that is the best of the best of the best. And it starts like all good stories do...

In the beginning  
there was God.  
God made the world and he loved the world.  
*Can you draw a heart?*

He loved the world so much that he sent his son from heaven to earth.  
*Can you draw the earth?*

Now why would he do that? Because he loved the world and wanted to show us how we could love him too.

On earth, Jesus did many things:  
Jesus went to parties  
He ate lots of food  
And enjoyed spending time with his friends  
But he also made people better.  
*Can you draw a plaster?*

He did lots of miracles  
he taught people how to live.  
*Can you make a Jesus out of your fuzzy stick?*

Normally people were excited to meet Jesus  
but then things started to turn bad  
So he had one last meal with his friends  
*Can you draw a cup and loaf of bread?*

He said this cup is my blood  
This bread is my body.  
What you do think he meant?

Then he was lied about  
people said nasty things about him  
and he ended up crucified, dead  
*Can you draw a cross?*

One kind man put Jesus in a tomb and wrapped him in a cloth.  
*Can you do that?*

Three days later, Mary one of his best friends – went to the tomb where he had been buried. She saw that the tomb was empty apart from his clothes—  
*Can take out Jesus?*

Jesus had gone and as she turned around confused, she saw Jesus – standing there alive. He said go and tell all my friends – I'm alive, but don't hang about I'm going back to heaven and just a few days later he did.

Why do Christians remember this story?  
Because God loved us so much, all of the bad things we do are taken away because of Jesus, he gives all of us a fresh start!

Jesus himself told us to remember him.

At a meal with Jesus and his friends – just like we are today. When we eat this meal we remember his story and our story.

Jesus said to his friends:

I give everything I have to you.  
Remember me when you eat bread.  
As you eat bread remember  
that I gave my body for you.

Remember me as you drink from a cup  
As you drink, remember that I gave my life  
for you.

Remember these things,  
and tell everyone else  
Remember these things  
and love others just like I love you  
Remember these things and live happily

*Prayers for the world*

Song: Happy day  
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, what a glorious day  
What a glorious way  
That You have saved me  
And oh, what a glorious day  
What a glorious name

Blessing