

7 February 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](http://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.

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Welcome to our service on Sunday 7 February 2021.

Let us share in reading John 1.1-5,14.

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.**

He was with God in the beginning.  
**Through him all things were made;**  
without him nothing was  
made that has been made.

**In him was life, and that life was the  
light of all people.**

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Word became flesh  
**and made his dwelling among us.**

We have seen his glory,  
**the glory of the one and only Son,**  
who came from the Father,  
**full of grace and truth.**

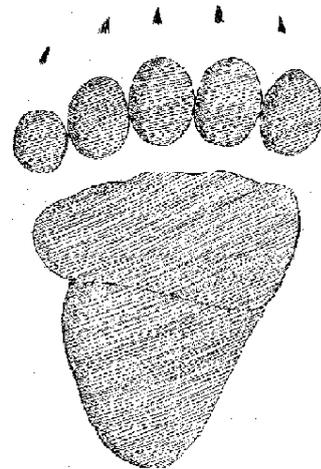
*Reading: Colossians 1.15-20 read by Bobsie  
Gordon*

<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all

things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

*All age activity: What made this?*

Take a look at each of these marks and think about how they were created? What has made these marks?





Answers: bear, snake on sand, coffee cup and a tetrapod.

John and I visited this is 'Tetrapod Trackway' on Valentia Island, Kerry in Ireland. It has been dated to the Devonian Period and is between 350 million and 370 million years old.

All of these marks have been created. Some are recent, some are very, very, very old, but all created. God is older than all of these marks. He made all the animals, humanity and gave us so much ability to create too. God has always existed and created the possibility all of these things by his power and love.

### *Prayer*

Dear God - Thank you for making the world and all that is in it. Thank you for creating us, thank you that you love us very much. Amen

*Song: Our God is a great big God*  
<https://youtu.be/eSTfM8M2Md8>

### *Prayer*

Giver of life and all that is good,  
all that is very good,

when we have covered our eyes  
and stopped our ears  
to creation's beauty and cry:

Lord have mercy, ***Christ have mercy***

Where we have stayed our hand  
from creation's care and flourishing:

Lord have mercy, ***Christ have mercy***

### *Silence*

Give us grace  
to work and live,  
play and dance  
on earth today  
as grateful and joyful  
daughters and sons of God,  
walking with  
and watching over one another  
and all things :

Lord have mercy, ***Christ have mercy***

### *Sermon: Christ is new life*

This week two inspiring discoveries have been found. First - Lily Wilder is a 4 year old who spotted a dinosaur footprint, which is 220-million-years old, at Bendricks Bay, Barry, in the Vale of Glamorgan.

NATIONAL MUSEUM WALES

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-55863928>



Can you imagine how delighted she and her family were to have found a sign of life from

so very, very, very long ago. Bendoricks Bay is well known for dinosaur footprints and is a site of special scientific interest, but even so – what a wonderful sign of life to be found.

In our two readings today, we are thinking about creation and in particular the presence of Christ in creation. Christ was present at creation, before the beginning of the world he was there. Before us, before humans, before dinosaurs, before there was anything, Christ was. The author of Colossians, Paul reminded the church at Colossae and reminds us today – in and through Christ everything was made by God. As we walk, and walk and walk around in lockdown we are rediscovering creation, rediscovering the beauty of the handiwork of God. Exploring creation helps us to connect with God.

The beginning of this letter to the church at Colossae is a prayer for the spiritual well-being of the church. Here Paul and his co-author Timothy we are reminded of the fundamental truth of the Christian faith that Christ existed before anything was made. God created the whole world in and through him and so everything has its place in relation to Christ. If we know who Christ is, if know that Christ is not just a man who said nice things and did a few miracles and died but the very wisdom of God through whom everything is made, our perspective on the world can change.

Knowing that Jesus Christ is Lord of all creation protects our spiritual well-being as it guards us against dodgy teaching. If you ever watch a video on the internet where an individual claims to have ability or authority to heal, to restore or to change your bank balance for the better, be reminded that no-one has authority to heal or restore but Christ. Our reading from John 1.3 tells afresh: Through him God made all things, not one thing in all creation was made without him.

So whether we delight in a flower or in a footprint, each of these can remind us of the Christ who was before all, and has authority over all. Through Christ all has been created by God.

This week the London Baptist ministers conference was held online – of course – this year. The main speaker was Dr Paula Gooder who is a writer and lecturer in Biblical Studies and the Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Her specialism is 2 Corinthians and the writings of Paul. I've linked her talk for the conference to our website, please do take a look if you are interested in a broader reflection on Paul and lockdown.

A key theme she presented from Paul was this – how things seem is not how they are. She reminded us that despite our life now, despite how worrying, boring and tiresome lockdown life is, there is hope. Here in Colossians 1v18 Paul reminds us of new life in a special place: the body of Christ. Christ was before the world began; all things were made through him. And secondly Christ brings new life to the world through his death and resurrection. As Jesus died on the cross, he put an end to evil and sin. He took on our faults and has drawn a line under them. As he rose from the dead, he gives new life to every single person who believes in him. When we are baptised, we go into the water – dry and come out – soaking wet. We are showing in visible way the work of the invisible power of God in our hearts.

Every time Christians say Jesus is Lord, new life becomes real. Every time Christians work together as his body, new life becomes real. Every time Christians notice Christ's renewing spirit, new life becomes real.

The gift of the church is one that acknowledges our source of the heavenly Christ but sees his activity on our doorstep.

Anyone who believes in Christ is new creation. Anyone who says Jesus is Lord, is new creation. So no matter if our church is shut, no matter if we cannot meet and sing together, God is still at work, bringing new life into each and every person.

As each Christian lives a life seeking to serve Christ, new life is happening all the time. Christians bring new life in all manner of places, and all over the world. We may not know each other, we may not be able to see each other as we would love to, but the work of Christ still goes on. The life of the church is animated by Christ as he shares his risen life with us.



This is the second image that inspired me this week. It's some spring flowers in our church grounds. The doors to our building are closed, but Christ brings new life. Our site is in desperate need of redevelopment, Christ is and will bring new life. Our lives may be limited now, but the power of Christ to bring us his peace in times of trial, to renew us and restore us. Christ's new life does not fade.

Consider again Christ, Lord of creation who breathes new life into each of our bodies. May we see his new life in our lives and be inspired for all that is to come.

*Song: King of Kings, majesty*  
[https://youtu.be/VjfbAYbZh\\_Q?t=690](https://youtu.be/VjfbAYbZh_Q?t=690)

*Communion*

**We gather at tables,  
of different sizes and shapes,  
used for various reasons  
over the weeks and months.**

Ordinary tables laid with something to eat  
and something to drink.

**Each table tells a story  
today the story it will tell  
is the story of 2000 years of history**

where God's people  
have gathered to remember  
the first night that Jesus shared  
this meal with his disciples.

So walk in faith to this table,  
to be reminded that we are not alone.  
Walk in faith to this meal, you and I  
to be nourished for the journey ahead.  
For some of us are fresh  
and others weary,  
**all of us aware of our failings**

Gracious God, we give thanks  
for all you have given us.  
offering rest for the weary,  
strength for the weak  
and hope for the hopeless.  
We thank you for this meal that speaks  
of healing and nourishment  
found in your love.

We thank you for this bread and this wine  
on different tables, on different plates  
in different cups, in different places,  
all symbols of your body broken  
and your blood shed for us.

We sit together, yet dispersed  
and we praise you Lord. Amen

And so we gather at the table,  
with bread and wine,  
scattered yet together to remember:

Take your bread, break it and eat it.  
This is Jesus' body, which is broken for you.

**Though we eat from many loaves,  
we remember that in Christ,  
we, though many, form one body and  
each belongs to all the others.**

Take your wine, hold it and drink.  
This is Jesus' blood shed for you.  
He offers you forgiveness, calls you his own  
and restores your soul.

**Though we drink from many cups,  
we remember that in Christ,  
we, though many, form one body and  
each belongs to all the others.**

Lord Jesus you have put your life  
into our hands,  
now we put our lives into yours.  
Take us, renew and remake us.  
What we have been is past,  
what we shall be,  
through you, still awaits us.  
Lead us on and make our story, your story.

#### *Intercession*

We pray for those who are unwell at this  
time, we pray for healing and restoration for  
Val and Kevin.

We pray for our mental well-being in  
lockdown. Sustain us Lord, grant us a  
lightness of spirit and a reminder of hope  
today.

We lift to you Myanmar. Myanmar's military  
is tightening its crackdown on the former  
civilian government, with the arrest of a  
senior leader from Aung San Suu Kyi's  
National League for Democracy (NLD)  
party. We pray for peace, stability and  
endurance for Myanmar.

As we have considered God's creation of the  
world today, we remember all those who  
work for the:

Everyday caring for creation and decisions  
about the environment \*

We remember all those who offer creative  
expression through the arts including music,  
writing, and other ways \*

#### *Lord's prayer led by Rebecca Feo*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

#### *Notices*

Church Members Meeting  
28 February 2021, 12noon on Zoom

Evening Prayer  
Thursdays in Lent at 8pm on Zoom, begins  
25 Feb.

#### *Blessing*

Let us go to love and serve,  
knowing that,  
***we are created  
from love,  
of love,  
for love.***

Link: Dr Paula Gooder Talk  
<https://youtu.be/X2qpiPttfXw>