

Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet

8 August 2021

Welcome

1 All creatures of our God and king,
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
 O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 People and nations, take your part,
love and forgive with all your heart;
Alleluia, alleluia!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
trust God and cast on him your care;
 O praise him ...

3 Let all things their creator bless
and worship him in lowliness,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
 O praise him ...

All creatures of our God and king
[Modernised Version]
Words: W H Draper / Jubilate Hymns
Music: EASTER SONG (Geistliche Kirchengesang 1623)
Arrangement: David Iliff

Apostles Creed

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!

Colours song

We're amazed by the blue... [sea/sky?]
And grateful for the white... [snow/polar
bear?]
Help us care for the green... [grass/jungles?]
And look after the black... [bears/panthers?]
We're amazed by the red...
[flowers/volcanoes?]
And grateful for the grey... [whales/koala?]
Help us care for the pink... [coral/pigs?]
And look after the brown... [wrens/soil?]

God you made them all,
and you made us too,
what a mighty God,
we will worship You.
Give us hearts that love,

give us hands that care,
for the world you made
for us all to share.

Written by the Burr family, used with
permission.

Reading: Psalm 25.1-10

25 To you, O Lord, I offer my prayer;
2 in you, my God, I trust.
Save me from the shame of defeat;
don't let my enemies gloat over me!
3 Defeat does not come to those who trust in
you,
but to those who are quick to rebel
against you.
4 Teach me your ways, O Lord;
make them known to me.
5 Teach me to live according to your truth,
for you are my God, who saves me.
I always trust in you.
6 Remember, O Lord, your kindness and
constant love
which you have shown from long ago.
7 Forgive the sins and errors of my youth.
In your constant love and goodness,
remember me, Lord!
8 Because the Lord is righteous and good,
he teaches sinners the path they should
follow.
9 He leads the humble in the right way
and teaches them his will.
10 With faithfulness and love he leads
all who keep his covenant and obey his
commands.

Quiz: Good choices

If it's raining – do you take an umbrella or
sun hat?

To eat healthy – do you eat fruit or
chocolate?

If you are going for a walk – do you wear
boots or stiletto heels?

Today's story is all about choices.
Sometimes we don't have a choice, but
when we do – are they good choices or bad
choices?

For the story today, please hold up a red
card if you think it was a bad choice and a
green card if it was a good one. At home,
please find anything green or red to wave
and take part.

Reading: Genesis 39.1-20

Now the Ishmaelites had taken Joseph to
Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, one of the
king's officers, who was the captain of the
palace guard. 2 The Lord was with Joseph
and made him successful. He lived in the
house of his Egyptian master, 3 who saw that
the Lord was with Joseph and had made him
successful in everything he did. 4 Potiphar
was pleased with him and made him his
personal servant; so he put him in charge of
his house and everything he owned.

*Did Potiphar make a good choice or a bad choice in
Joseph?*

5 From then on, because of Joseph
the Lord blessed the household of the
Egyptian and everything that he had in his
house and in his fields. 6 Potiphar turned
over everything he had to the care of Joseph
and did not concern himself with anything
except the food he ate.

Joseph was well-built and good-
looking, 7 and after a while his master's wife
began to desire Joseph and asked him to go
to bed with her. 8 He refused.

Did Joseph make a good choice?

¹¹ But one day when Joseph went into the house to do his work, none of the house servants was there. ¹² She caught him by his robe and said, “Kiss me quick!” But he escaped and ran outside, leaving his robe in her hand. ¹⁴ she called to her house servants and said, “Look at this! This Hebrew that my husband brought to the house is insulting us. He came into my room and tried to attack me, but I screamed as loud as I could. ¹⁵ When he heard me scream, he ran outside, leaving his robe beside me.”

Did Potiphar's wife make a good choice?

¹⁶ She kept his robe with her until Joseph's master came home. ¹⁷ Then she told him the same story: “That Hebrew slave that you brought here came into my room and insulted me. ¹⁸ But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his robe beside me.”

¹⁹ Joseph's master was furious ²⁰ and had Joseph arrested and put in the prison where the king's prisoners were kept, and there he stayed.

Did Potiphar make a good choice?

²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and blessed him, so that the jailer was pleased with him. ²² He put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and made him responsible for everything that was done in the prison. ²³ The jailer did not have to look after anything for which Joseph was responsible, because the Lord was with Joseph and made him succeed in everything he did.

All age activity : Decision maker craft

Colour each corner, cut out and fold to create a decision maker.

Wordsearch also available online and at church.

Sermon: A tale of two robes

When I became a Moriarty, I became acutely aware of the tales of Sherlock Holmes and his long time enemy Moriarty. Like in every good detective, Sherlock has an exacting eye for detail. Holmes would have seen right through Potiphar's wife. She creates a problem by asking Joseph to betray his master. But she engineers a huge amount of trouble by changing her story with just one tiny detail about Joseph's robe. Just as before, Joseph's robe is a source of tension. His multicoloured robe had been a symbol of favouritism and a flashpoint for sheer anger from his brothers. They pulled that robe off and tore it to shreds. Potiphar's wife snatches Joseph's new robe, and tore his reputation to shreds. And it is the location of the robe in her story that shifts the blame and evidence onto Joseph. The robe is in her hand as Joseph flees. But as she retells the story, she places it beside her. She wants everyone to think Joseph took his own robe off.

Joseph is left exposed to danger, just as he was exposed to heat and thirst without his robe in the cistern by his brothers. Joseph is once again alone and without a true friend.

Notice too, that Joseph also loses his name. Potiphar's wife calls him the Hebrew. She was happy enough that Joseph's presence had meant great prosperity for her household, and so was Potiphar, he entrusted his whole household to him, everything he gave over to him. But at the end of the day, they were Egyptian, and he was a Hebrew. Suddenly race mattered. Suddenly all Joseph's power is stripped away, and he is only known for his race and his enslavement.

A few weeks back, we cheered England on in that Euro 2021 semi-final, we were delighted that our country's team had gotten so far. We were so hopeful for success, so much had already been granted to us. And as our players missed a penalty shot on goal, suddenly race

mattered. Rashford's mural was defaced and the trolls on twitter exploded with racism.

In Joseph's story we meet Potiphar's wife making bad choices, we meet racism and power struggles and we meet deception and lies over and over again. We meet the falsely accused and imprisoned. In his story we meet real life. We meet every challenge we have seen and known in our life today. We meet every evil like racism that must be challenged and stopped.

Yet this drama is enclosed within the narrator reminding us that God was present with Joseph in V3. God was present with him while he was enslaved at Potiphar's house. God's presence saw Joseph made successful and Potiphar's Egyptian household, even in his fields v5. And present even when he wound up in prison, falsely accused and in a cell not unlike a cistern.

In real life, bad things happen to good people. In real life, good things happen to bad people. In real life, God is present no matter what. For our God is the God who abides. Our God is the God of hope who is working in the meanwhile. I cannot believe that Joseph was perfectly confident of a godly plan for his life included attempted murder, abandonment, enslavement, false accusations and imprisonment. I cannot believe anyone today can think there is a godly plan in our trials of life, when we are sick, when adults behave wrongly, when we are lied about and denigrated because of the colour of our skin. None of these things are part of God's plan.

The divine plan in Joseph's story is for God to save his people from the impending famine. The plan is to get Joseph a new coat, a new robe of leadership to administer the food in Egypt so the tribes of Israel don't die out. God's plan is for good. God's plan is seen in the dream and hope that is given to Joseph and this is what does not change. The route Joseph ends up taking is ridiculous. The chaos and heartache and so many tears are

not planned by God. We do not worship a malicious God.

We worship the God of Joseph, who seeks to save his people despite what might be happening around the world. God is always looking at our situation and seeing where he can be at work. And this is where we must, must, must listen. Our one task as people seeking to follow Christ is not to wait for a map with a fully laid out path to be delivered by divine mail.

Our task is to ask God – please lead me in my situation now. Please help me to have faith and be open to what may happen. Please guide my feet step by step. Please help me to make good choices when faced with challenging situations. Please help me to be a person who glorifies God who saves us. If we can do this, then we too will know the abiding presence of God and know that we have led a successful life. May our lives glorify the God of hope.

Prayers for the world

Song: We Seek Your Kingdom

NOEL ROBINSON, ANDY
FLANNAGAN, & GRAHAM HUNTER
(Tune of Abide with me)

We seek your kingdom
throughout every sphere
We long for heaven's demonstration here
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see
Transform, revive, and heal society

Before all things,
in him were all things made
Inspiring culture, media, and trade
May all our work serve your economy
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere

With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page
Make us again what we were made to be
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be
Selfless in service, loving constantly
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive, and heal society
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Blessing