

SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2020

4pm, Arborfield Green Community Centre



**A NEW CHURCH
FOR A NEW COMMUNITY**

Welcome to Church@TheGreen, a new church for the new community of Arborfield Green established by the existing Churches of Arborfield and Barkham. At the heart of our church family life is a trust in the living God who has revealed himself in Jesus Christ and who still speaks to us through his Word, the Bible.

We are so happy to be back together in person, even if things are a bit different to what we're used to. There is no singing during the service at the moment, but feel free to read and reflect on the words or hum along if you like. If you are visiting us, please fill in a visitor form (for the purposes of track and trace) and do introduce yourself to Piers (Minister) or Phil (Ministry Trainee)

We are continuing our series in Matthew's gospel today and Andy will be speaking on chapter 15.

WELCOME – Piers Bickersteth

SONG

Who has held the oceans in His hand?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

*Behold our God seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King—nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Behold our God seated on His throne....

Who has felt the nails upon His hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign!

Behold our God seated on His throne....

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Psalm 24

Of David. A psalm.

¹ The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

³ Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure
heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Saviour.

⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek
him,

who seek your face, God of Jacob.

⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty –
he is the King of glory.

Reading – *Matthew 15:1-20*

¹⁵ Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ² 'Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!'

³ Jesus replied, 'And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, "Honour your father and mother" and "Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death." ⁵ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is "devoted to God," ⁶ they are not to "honour their father or mother" with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸ "These people honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁹ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules."

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.'

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?'

¹³ He replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.'

¹⁵ Peter said, 'Explain the parable to us.'

Reading – Matthew 15:1-20 (cont...)

¹⁶ 'Are you still so dull?' Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ 'Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.'

Sermon – Andy Kearns

Confession

**Our Father in heaven,
we have sinned against You, we have disobeyed and ignored You;
please forgive us the wrongs we have done -
for being selfish and greedy, for bad temper and angry words,
we are sorry.
For hurting others, for lies we have told,
for things we have stolen, for the wrong in our hearts,
we are sorry.
For not trying to please You, for not helping others,
we are sorry.
Please forgive us through your Son Jesus Christ who died for our sin.
help us to live lives which please You.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance from 1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ 'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.'

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

Song

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless
peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won,
and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

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Prayer Meeting – Wednesday 9th September

We will be meeting to pray over Zoom on **Wednesday at 7:45pm – 9pm**. The link will be sent out on tomorrow. Please do join us to pray for the reopening of church next week amongst other things.



Prayer Meeting

 Church@TheGreen
Abchurch Lane

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Online

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 YouTube

Find us online!

Know someone who is self-isolating but would like to join us? Or maybe you'd like to catch up on talks that you've missed in the series? Every week we live stream our service on Youtube and you can find all our previous talks there too.

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