

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
4pm, Arborfield Green Community Centre



**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. 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).

Today we continue our series in Ezra with chapter 4. We will still have the musicians providing us music which we can use as a time of reflection and quiet worship. In line with guidance, we are still unable to provide children's groups.

**Welcome – Joël Carle**

**Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.  
Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world. Amen**

*Isaiah 12:4-6*

## **Song**

Jesus said that if I thirst  
I should come to Him  
No one else can satisfy  
I should come to Him

Jesus said, if I am weak  
I should come to Him  
No one else can be my strength  
I should come to Him

*For the Lord is good and faithful  
He will keep us day and night  
We can always run to Jesus  
Jesus, strong and kind*

Jesus said that if I fear  
I should come to Him  
No one else can be my shield  
I should come to Him

*For the Lord is good and faithful...*

Jesus said, if I am lost  
He will come to me  
And He showed me on that cross  
He will come to me

*For the Lord is good and faithful...*

## Reading – *Ezra 4:1-5, 24*

**4** Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel, <sup>2</sup> they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here." <sup>3</sup> But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

<sup>4</sup> Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build <sup>5</sup> and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

[...]

<sup>24</sup> Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

## Sermon – *Piers Bickersteth*

### Song

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Greatest treasure of my longing soul  
My God, like You there is no other  
True delight is found in You alone  
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom  
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach  
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom  
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Gracious Savior of my ruined life  
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders  
In my place You suffered bled and died  
You rose, the grave and death are conquered  
You broke my bonds of sin and shame  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Strong defender of my weary heart  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver  
And my shield against his hateful darts  
My song when enemies surround me  
My hope when tides of sorrow rise  
My joy when trials are abounding  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

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## **Antidote to Anxiety?**

### **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**

### **Prayers**

### **Open Doors**

#### **1 Peter 5**

**And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

## SERMON NOTES

### The troubles begin – Ezra 4

- God's people have an enemy – be alert!
- The enemy has a plan – be prepared!
- The enemy is relentless – stand firm!

