

Sunday 28th 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).

Arrangements for The Lord's Supper

Once Piers has led us in the prayers of preparation for receiving the Lord's supper we'll be ushered to the exit (make sure you take everything with you as we'll not return to the Hall). If you wish to receive bread (this time in the form of a wafer) please lift your hands so that Piers can drop one into your hands, then pick up a cup (there will be no spoken words at this point). Please avoid touching any other cup by accident. Then head outside where elders will usher you under cover round the courtyard.

Please don't eat the bread or drink the wine until we are all outside and we are led to do so by Piers. After taking the bread and the wine, we'll pray the Prayer of Thanksgiving together (so please have your service sheets to hand) to finish the service. We'll then leave the courtyard (ie not return to the Hall). This seems to us to be the safest way of proceeding.

Welcome – Phil Rowlandson

Song

No one is good
No one is holy before God.
I need someone to cleanse me.
No one is pure
No one is righteous in Your sight.
I need someone to save me.
But I'm so glad You died and rose again
for helpless sinners like me.

*What a mighty, mighty, Saviour You are.
What a mighty, mighty Saviour You are.
You can wash away my sin.
You can change my heart within.
What a mighty, mighty Saviour You are.*

Sin is too strong
for me to conquer on my own.
I need someone to help me.
I am too weak.
I cannot change my evil heart.
I need someone to save me.
But I'm so glad You died and rose again
for helpless sinners like me.

What a mighty, mighty, Saviour You are....

Mark Altrodge
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Reading – Ezra 6:13-22

¹³ Then, because of the decree King Darius had sent, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. ¹⁴ So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. ¹⁵ The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

¹⁶ Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. ¹⁷ For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering^[a] for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸ And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.

¹⁹ On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. ²⁰ The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their relatives the priests and for themselves. ²¹ So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbours in order to seek the LORD, the God of Israel. ²² For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the LORD had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.

Sermon – Piers Bickersteth

Song

You made the starry hosts
You traced the mountain peaks
You paint the evening sky with wonders
The earth, it is Your throne
From desert to the sea
All nature testifies Your splendor

*Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord
Sing His greatness
All creation
Praise the Lord
Raise your voice
You heights and all you depths
From furthest east to west
Let everything that has breath
Praise the Lord*

You reached into the dust
In love, Your Spirit breathed
You formed us in Your very likeness
To know Your wondrous works
To tell Your mighty deeds
To join the everlasting chorus

Praise the Lord...

Let symphonies resound
Let drums and choirs ring out
All heaven hear the sound of worship
Let every nation bring
Its honors to the King
A roar of harmonies eternal

Song (cont...)

Praise the Lord
 Praise the Lord
 Sing His greatness
 All creation
 Praise the Lord
 Raise your voice
 You heights and all you depths

From furthest east to west
 You distant burning stars
 All creatures near and far
 From sky to sea to shore
 Sing out forevermore
 Let everything that has breath
 Praise the Lord

Matt Boswell & Matt Papa
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Prayers

The Lord's supper

Summary of the Law:

In Mark 12 our Lord Jesus Christ said

The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 we have sinned against you and against our fellow men,
 in thought and word and deed,
 through negligence, through weakness,
 through our own deliberate fault.
 We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
 and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen**

Words of assurance from Matthew 11:28, John 3:16, 1 Timothy 1:15, 1 John 2:1

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen

The Lord's Supper Prayer of thanksgiving:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out into the world in the power of your Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

SERMON NOTES

Reason to celebrate

- Rebuilding
- Redemption
- Providence



