

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 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 7. 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, but will start a short children's series with Ben focusing on God's creation

## Welcome – *Carolyn Bickersteth*

### Song

We are his kingdom, we are his bride  
For us he paid the price  
For us he bled and died  
We are his people, his treasured prize  
For us he conquered sin  
For he is risen

With thankfulness we will sing  
Adopted, now we are his

*So we declare the praises,  
Of Jesus, Saviour and King  
He is the cornerstone, Hallelujah  
And now we stand as his church  
Until the day when he comes in glory,  
Hallelujah*

We are a priesthood, beloved ones  
He draws the scattered near  
He builds his kingdom here  
A holy nation, now set apart  
To be his hands and feet  
To speak his mercy

With thankfulness we will sing  
Adopted, now we are his

*So we declare the praises...*

Emu Music  
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## Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he  
descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

## Bible Time with Ben

### Reading – *Ezra 7: 1-10*

<sup>7</sup> After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, <sup>2</sup> the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, <sup>3</sup> the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, <sup>4</sup> the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, <sup>5</sup> the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest – <sup>6</sup> this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him. <sup>7</sup> Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

<sup>8</sup> Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. <sup>9</sup> He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. <sup>10</sup> For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

### Sermon – *Piers Bickersteth*

<sup>11</sup> Command and teach these things. <sup>12</sup> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. <sup>13</sup> Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

<sup>15</sup> Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. <sup>16</sup> Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. - *1 Timothy 4:11-16*

## The Commandments

God spoke all these words saying: I am the Lord your God.

You shall have no gods other than me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God

Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy.

**Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep these laws.**

Honour your father and your mother

You shall not commit murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write all these your laws on our hearts, we pray.**

## 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

When I fear my faith will fail  
Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail  
He will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path  
For my love is often cold  
He must hold me fast

*He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Saviour loves me so  
He will hold me fast*

Those He saves are His delight  
Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in His holy sight  
He will hold me fast

He'll not let my soul be lost  
His promises shall last  
Bought by Him at such a cost  
He will hold me fast  
*He will hold me fast...*

For my life He bled and died  
Christ will hold me fast  
Justice has been satisfied  
He will hold me fast  
Raised with Him to endless life  
He will hold me fast  
Till our faith is turned to sight  
When he comes at last

*He will hold me fast...*

## ***SERMON NOTES***

1. A heart set on God's Word
2. A life doing God's Word
3. A ministry teaching God's Word