

Sunday 16th May 2021
4pm, Arborfield Green Community Centre



Welcome to Church@TheGreen. We are 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 1 Thessalonians with Piers speaking on the start of chapter 2. There will be children's groups for ages 5 and a self-service creche (up to five adults) in the office block. Please do stick around after the service as under current guidance we are allowed to talk in small groups of no more than 6.

Welcome – Carolyn Bickersteth

Song

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendour outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

*Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God*

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him...

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God

Come and behold Him...

Confession

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sin.
For turning away from you,
And ignoring your commandments
Father:
we are sorry.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father:
we are sorry.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father:
we are sorry.

For failing to love others
Through selfishness, greed and apathy;
Father:
we are sorry.

Shoots leave for their group (Ages 5-10)

Reading – 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

2 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. **2** We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. **3** For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. **4** On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. **5** You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. **6** We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. **7** Instead, we were like young children^[a] among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, **8** so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. **9** Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. **11** For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, **12** encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Sermon – Piers Bickersteth

Saplings leave for their group *(School years 5 and up)*

Money – Women’s Event

Prayers

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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SERMON NOTES