

Sunday 13th June 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).

Piers will be continuing the series on 1 Thessalonians. Do feel free to stay after the service and talk in groups of up to 6 or two households.

Welcome – Phil Rowlandson

Song

Sister, let me wipe your tears
Brother, let me bear your fears
Come on, every daughter, every son
Let us walk in love for we are one

Though we walk a long and broken road
We are here to bear each other's load
And forgive as You've forgiven us
Let us walk in love for we are one

*We are one in the Father's love
We of every tribe and every tongue
We are found in the risen Son
We are bound together by His blood
Let us walk in love for we are one*

There's a love that conquers all divides
There's a love that paid the greatest price
For the battle over death is won
Now alive in Christ we live as one
We are one in the Father's love..

There's a love that conquers all divides
There's a love that paid the greatest price
For the battle over death is won
Now alive in Christ we live as one
We are one in the Father's love..

On the day You come to call us home
With the multitude before the throne
Now with all the saints who've overcome
For eternity we'll sing as one
We are one in the Father's love...

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Reading: John 15:9-14

⁹ 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

Confession

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may act justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen**

Shoots to leave for groups (ages 5-10yrs)

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Sermon – Piers Bickersteth

Saplings to leave for groups (*school years 5 & up*)

Prayer – Carolyn Bickersteth

Song

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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SERMON NOTES

Living in the light of Jesus return

1. Praying for a growing faith (3:10 -11)

2. Praying for a deepening love (3:12)

Then...

So...