

Song

Joy has dawned upon the world
Promised from creation;
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love;
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the sound of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today,
Incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, His death will make a way,
And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of Heav'n,
Given as a ransom,
Reconciling God and man,
Christ, our mighty Champion!
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
What a glorious mystery;
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
Now the Lord of history.

Sunday 27th December 2020
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 – Ed Clark

Song

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

Song

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:
I love You, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children
in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

The child in the manger, is God's King on high
He came down from heaven,
He came down to die
He calls us to follow, to make Him our King
And receive His forgiveness that He died to bring.

Reading – John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, 'This is the one I spoke about when I said, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me."') ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Sermon – Joël Carle

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