

Sunday 24th January 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 are finishing our series on adoption and Piers will be speaking on life in and as God's family. As guidance has advised against singing in worship services, so we will no longer be going outside to sing. 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.

Welcome – Phil Rowlandson

Song

Behold the power of his word:
He spoke – creation came to be;
I will trust his promise.
He hung the stars – a guarantee:
His word is strong enough for me;
I will trust his promise.

*Generations rise, generations fall
But his word is living,
And his word is sure
Evermore, evermore, evermore*

There is salvation in his word:
His voice has called us from the grave;
I will trust his promise.
We are surrounded by his grace
Here in the midst of those he's saved;
I will trust his promise.

Generations rise, generations fall...

Our eyes have seen
Our ears have heard
We are a witness to
The power of your word
So we will tell
Your promises are good
In Jesus Christ we have
Your every word fulfilled

Generations rise, generations fall...

Michael Morrow
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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.

Song

O Great God of highest heaven
Occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
Conquer every rebel power.
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
Make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin,
Had no ears to hear Your voice.
Did not know Your love within,
Had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then Your Spirit gave me life,
Opened up Your Word to me,
Through the gospel of Your Son,
Gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heaven
Glorify Your Name through me.

Bob Kauflin
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Prayers

Reading – Ephesians 4:17-5:2

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ 'In your anger do not sin'^[a]: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Sermon – Piers Bickersteth

1 John 3:16-18

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 4:9-11

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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...

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...

SERMON NOTES

Life in God's family

1. I am a child of God.
2. God is my Father.
3. Heaven is my home.
4. Every day is one day nearer.
5. My Savior is my brother.
6. Every Christian is my brother or sister too.

Marked by

- Sacrificial service
- Being distinctively different
- Growing in the family likeness

The work of God's Holy Spirit