

Sunday 22nd August 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 summer series on prayer as we turn to Job and Piers will preach on why we bother praying at all. There are no children's groups over the summer, but there is a self-service creche for under 5s which the sermon will be streamed into. **We are singing indoors with masks on, but masks can be removed during the reading and sermon.**

Welcome – Theresa Swan

Song

You're the Word of God the Father,
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice:
Let the skies declare Your glory,
Let the land and seas rejoice!

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man;
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands.*

Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.

With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You stilled the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free.

You're the Author of creation,...

With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting victory from the grave,
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in Your wake.
Now You stand before the Father
Interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.

You're the Author of creation,...

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Confession

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

News from The Gambia – The Algeos

Song

*Good and gracious, You're our Creator
Good and gracious to all You've made You're
Good and gracious, You never change, there's
goodness
In everything You do*

Father, You are powerful and mighty
You rule over everything our eyes see
You provide the air that we breathe
Sun and rain and food that we eat
You're so good to always take care of me

Good and gracious, You're our Creator...

Father, You sent Jesus down to save us
He's the greatest gift You ever gave us
When the Spirit opens our eyes
We can see the goodness of Christ
Then we find we want to do good like You

Good and gracious, You're our Creator...

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Reading – Job 38:1-7; 42:2-3, 7-9, page 538

Sermon: Why bother to pray? – Piers Bickersteth

Prayers

Family Focus: Music – Ed Clark

Song

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon
His throne:
while heaven's eternal anthem drowns all
music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died to
be
your Saviour and your matchless King through
all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, triumphant from
the grave,
who rose victorious from the strife for those
He came to save:
His glories now we sing who died and reigns
on high,
He died eternal life to bring, and lives that
death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love; who shows His
hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above, in beauty
glorified.

No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries
so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, His kingdom is at
hand;
From pole to pole let warfare cease, and Christ
rule every land!
A city stands on high, His glory it displays,
and there the nations 'Holy' cry in joyful hymns of
praise.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of
time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, in majesty sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail for You have died for me:
Your praise shall never, never fail through all
eternity!

George Job Elvey Godfrey Thring Matthew Bridges
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SERMON NOTES

Why bother to pray?

He is the Sovereign God who through Jesus we can know as Our Heavenly Father

1. Wrong thinking about God when we pray

- Lack of asking

You do not have because you do not ask. James 4:2

- Lack of asking rightly

You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:2-5

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

2. Right expectations of God when we pray

- God hears our prayers

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

- Trust God to answer our prayers

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15