

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL
FAMILY SUNDAY SERVICE
6 NOVEMBER 2022**

THE DREAM →

'TWO TREES IN ONE GARDEN'



Call to worship

Creator God,
Your story has unfolded through time, from far-flung stars to intimate relationship. Help us, as we gather today to know and see You in new ways, in our song and in our silence, give us the courage to face our vulnerabilities and sit with You, confident in Your presence and love for us. Amen

We are here to praise you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRoLu4HGcJs>

Be still for the presence of the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

1. Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here
2. Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendor He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
3. Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

CCLI Song # 120824

Opening Prayer – 'The Five Gardens of God' by MA Pura

My God, Builder of the green world and maker of my soul, show us what truth there is to be found in places set apart where flowers and trees and herbs gather and your Spirit with them. I ask not so much to learn what Columbine petals mean or a sprig of marjoram or a bed of lavender.

But I do ask to know what a garden means and what you wish to say to me in it. It is you I want to see among the stalks and stems your voice I want to hear where breezes and bees and grey-backed sparrows live.

In all your gardens, I wish to sit and wait and listen in the cool of the evening for the sound of you walking between the raspberry canes and the lilac to the stone seat where we may speak friend to friend. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Lord's prayer

Bible Readings: Luke 13:6-9

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

'Two Birch Trees' Glimpse Poetry by Joe Holuta

<https://glimpsepoetry.blogspot.com/2022/04/two-birch-trees-side-by-side.html>

Two birch trees side by side
Growing
No shade between
refreshing
white paper birch bark
fragile when pulled away

Two birch trees side by side
Tender birch twigs,
children peeled the bark away
sweet to the taste
survival long ago

Two birch trees side by side

Quick to grow
green leaves in spring
last leaves in fall to go
Design beautiful
Even in the cold winter snow

Two birches side by side
hardwood deep
Grow together
Reaching the blue sky
Could there be a Third, behind?
By their side

Reflection: 'Two trees in one garden' – a dream?

Song: "To be in your Presence" (My Desire)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=typ7cueKdT4>

Prayers for offerings

Bountiful Lord, thank You that You are willing to take all that we offer to You and then multiply it for good. We know that we grow by giving in faith, gratitude, and even in want. For when we give, we give to You, and You multiply it beyond our wildest imaginations. Take all that we are and all that we have – our time, talents and money, and bless this community and grow Your church through our giving. Amen.

Prayer for ourselves and others

We pray for those parts of the world where there is war and unrest. For those in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine, and so many other places where there is no peace. Hear the cries of those who are frightened, strengthen and inspire those who work for peace. And help us to be people of peace ourselves.

Loving Lord, help us to bring our needs to You.

We pray for justice, that in our country and across the world leaders will be inspired by the Spirit to act fairly and wisely for the common good, and that our institutions would be guided and renewed by those seeking to hear Your voice.

Loving Lord, help us to bring our needs to You.

We pray for families, in particular families struggling with rising living costs and the extra struggles that the school holidays bring. Help them to know of Your peace and encouragement; and help us to form communities which nurture and support families of all kinds.

Loving Lord, help us to bring our needs to You.

We pray for our Church, that at times of change and uncertainty we will be a place of refuge, silence and

peace in our communities, that in a busy and troubled world we will have wisdom and compassion to support people in their pain; and guide them to find rest at Jesus' feet.

Loving Lord, help us to bring our needs to You.

Closing hymn: The Church is one foundation

<https://youtu.be/9rIS166ppoE>

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord
She is His new creation
By water and the Word
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died

2. Elect from every nation
Yet one o'er all the earth
Her charter of salvation



One Lord one faith one birth
One holy name she blesses
Partakes one holy food
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued

3. 'Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest

4. Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy
Lord give us grace that we
Like them the meek and lowly
On high may dwell with Thee

5. Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed
By schisms rent asunder
By heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping
Their cry goes up how long
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song

CCLI Song # 55377

Benediction/ Sending

Loving God,
we have heard of Your power and might,
and Your smallness and ordinariness,
Your thirst for justice
and Your desire for closeness in us.
As we leave this place,
help us to take something of all these parts
of You into the world with us,
and to encounter You in our relationships
and the events of our lives.

May God bless you this week,
power of the Father,
friendship of the Son,
encouragement of the Holy Spirit,
now and always,
Amen