

Connected

Sunday 7th March 2021
3rd Sunday of Lent

Verse For The Week

Christ is the visible image
of the invisible God.

(Colossians 1: 15)

Sermon Snippets

Family Likeness

Genesis 1: 26-31a

Has anyone ever told you that you're the image of someone in your family? If so, they've seen a family likeness in you.

In the account of God's amazing creation, we read that the final creation was us! Human beings, 'created in his image'. But what does that mean?

God not only gives us life but he also gives us some of his characteristics so that we are like him; we share a 'family likeness'.

We are not made to be 'look-alikes' but 'be-alikes'.

But, how can we know what God's characteristics are? How can we reflect God's image and how can we see God's image in everyone even when sin blurs that image?

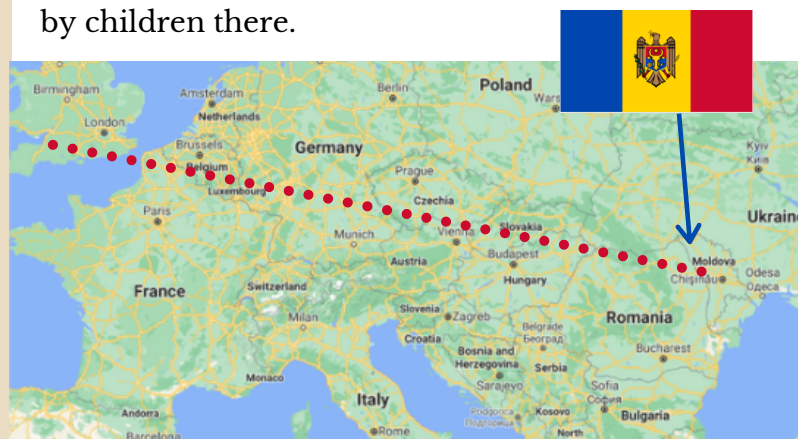
God's answer is Jesus. Look to him, how he lived and how he treated people for the perfect example of a life lived in the image of God.

Remember the Christmas Shoeboxes?



Towards the end of last year so many people gave very generously towards the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. People packed boxes individually, or gave items to be packed into shoeboxes, or donated online. Such was the generosity of folk in our two churches plus St Nicholas, Uphill, we sent about 120 boxes to bless children who would otherwise not have received anything. It was an expression of living God's love.

But where did the shoeboxes go? We now know that all of them travelled 1,680 miles to Moldova, part of a total of 37,552 boxes which were received by children there.



Watch the Sunday Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page.

Prayer Pointers

Sunday

Thank God for the opportunity of hearing His Word today and pray for the Holy Spirit to impact those who join the service online who would not normally attend church.

Monday

As schools reopen, we pray for all our local schools, especially Christ Church Primary School, its teachers, support staff and children.

Tuesday

Pray for the Peace of God to be on the homes of those we love, our families and our friends. May they know the abiding love of God at the start of each day, in their going out and coming in, and at the end of the day.

Wednesday

Give thanks for the glories of the Springtime, for the blossoms and colours, for the scent and variety of God's creation all around us.

Thursday

We remember before God Christians in places of power and influence in our country, praying for a good witness to Christ in their daily work. Especially we remember our MP John Penrose, our County Council, Town Council and Mayor.

Friday

Pray for the doctors, nurses, administrative staff and patients in our Hospital; for staff at Health Centres; staff and residents at Care Homes; that our compassionate God may meet each carer and patient with the transforming power of His presence.

Saturday

Pray for renewal in the church, for the power of the Holy Spirit to come amongst us with wind and fire that God's Church may grow and his Kingdom be extended.

Christians Against Poverty Newsletter

The latest edition of the CAP Newsletter is now available to view on the [Christ Church website](#). It includes details of an online Money Course being run over three evenings in April. Please do pray for this work.

"Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty."

E.M. Bounds

Reminders

Prayer Opportunities

Even though our two churches are closed for public worship, Christ Church is open weekday mornings for private prayer from 09.00 to 12.00. There are two helpful prayer stations in the church which provide visual prompts.

Please use the hand sanitiser as you come in to the church, wear a face covering (unless exempt) and follow the rules on social distancing.

The Bible Story Trail which was in the church garden has now been removed - but this is to make way for a new Stories of Jesus Trail which will include the Easter Story. Watch this space for news of when it will be ready.

How to access Church At Home Packs

Click on the Sunday Services page of the Christ Church website, or [click this link](#). Select the service you want to watch. Underneath the video of the service, you will see a box entitled Download Files. Click on the word 'Notes' and your pack will appear. For an explanation of what Church At Home Packs are, see the 14th and 21st February editions of *Connected*.

Bible Notes

There is a box of Bible Notes in addressed envelopes awaiting collection by Subscribers in the Christ Church foyer between 9am and 3.30 Mon - Thu and 9am - 12noon on Fridays.

Subscribers are asked to collect their own notes, but if they recognise the name of someone who lives near them, could they please deliver those as well.

Easter Eggs and Cards

Liz Cole will be ordering Easter Eggs and Easter Cards from Traidcraft next Wednesday 10th March. If you would like any please contact her on 01934 782886. Details can be found on the [Traidcraft website](#).

Coffee after the Service...

Lent Reflection



Psalm 19: 7-14

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

The scroll of the Torah* was open in front of him. These were his scriptures, all that he had. As he begins to read 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth', and as the story of Adam and Eve unfolds, he finds sin has entered the world and a plan of God's redemption for the world is starting to appear. As David meditates on those words, he finds them pure, clean and sure, and they converted his soul, rejoiced his heart and enlightened his eyes (vv 7 & 8).

The perfect and true words of God his heavenly Father convicted him of sin. He knew in his heart that he had sinned before God. Yet upon confession of his sin, it pleased God to grant David forgiveness, cleansing and a chance to begin again.

But David knew that his life had to change. His soul had been converted and his heart rejoiced but he had to think and act differently to that which he had in the past, and so he prays to the God of heaven from here on in to 'let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord my strength and my Redeemer'. All that he would say, all that he would think and meditate on in his heart was to be acceptable to his God.

These words are a challenge to us today just as much as they were for David. Having been convicted of sin and sought the forgiveness of God, let us pray these words through again, and like David asking that all the words of our mouths and that which we meditate in our hearts might be acceptable to our God who is our strength and our Redeemer.

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**Note: The Torah is 'The Law of the Lord' in Psalm 19: 7 and in the original is plural meaning 'laws', 'directions' or 'instructions'. We know the Torah as Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.*

tearfund

Lent Appeal 2021



Tear Fund have been blessed by some very generous supporters who have offered to double donations received during Lent.

This is a real opportunity to help those who suffer hardship, poor living conditions, famine, and those who have fled to refugee camps. It goes without saying that the suffering experienced by these people has been severely exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Please [click on this link](#) if you would like to donate to the Tear Fund Lent Appeal.

For more information about the work of Tear Fund, and to sign up to receive their newsletter and prayer diary, please visit their website - <https://www.tearfund.org/>

A Note of Thanks

I want to give you our sincere, heartfelt gratitude for all of your loving support and prayers for our family at this difficult time. We're so thankful and feel blessed to be part of such a caring church family - Thank you!

May God continue to watch over each and every one of you and give you His strength and peace as you face your many daily challenges in this life too.

With love

Wendy, Hayden and family

Another coffee, anyone?

A Meditation on The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Who alone knows our brokenness and pain.
Who honours us by making us Your children
Equal members of Your family,
And gives us a new identity
As Your beloved chosen people,

Hallowed be Your name,
For You are pure and sinless,
You are the great I AM,
Before whom we stand in awe,
God of truth and righteousness,
God of mercy and justice.

Your kingdom come.
Let Your glorious rule
Cover the earth
And banish all injustice,
Cast out all corruption
And right all wrongs.
Set Your people free from oppression
And let Your reign begin in us.

Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Help us to accept Your purposes,
Your good and perfect plan for our lives,
As one day all creation will submit
And bow before You
In Whom is perfect peace and freedom.

Give us today our daily bread,
For we are poor and needy,
And we depend on You.
Father, provide our food and water,
Our clothing and shelter.
Day by day, our eyes look to You.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
Father, forgive our many sins
Through the shed blood of Your Son
Who died for us and rose again.
Release us from the burden of our debts
And give us grace to forgive
Those in debt to us.
Father, make us generous and merciful.

And lead us not into temptation.
Father, give us faith to overcome
our fears, doubts and worries.
Father, do not test us more than we can bear.
Give us the strength to endure patiently,
The grace to accept and persevere.
Give us a life of godliness and contentment.

But deliver us from the evil one.
Father, rescue us from Satan's wiles,
Free us from bondage,
Snatch us from calamity, death
And the injustice of evil men.

For yours is the kingdom,
The power and the glory.
Father, establish Your sovereign rule.
Glorify Your name and keep us safe
For now and eternity.

Amen

Based on Matthew 6:9-13

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Courtesy of Barnabas Fund www.barnabasfund.org

Church Services

Please pray for wisdom for Tom and the Leadership teams of both churches as they consider how best to move forward with church services. A lot of us want to get back together, but there will be many who will not be able to do so. Online services may well therefore continue to play a part as we look to move forward together in the coming months. More information will be given soon.

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (709343)
(Day off - Tuesday)

Church Office (641016)
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