



Bowthorpe
Church

A FRESH START – CHILDREN OF GOD

John 1:9 - 13 17th January 2021



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CALL TO WORSHIP

In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring' (Romans 9: 8).



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WHO YOU SAY I AM





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OPENING PRAYER

Faithful one, whose word is life,
come with saving power to free our
praise, inspire our prayer and shape
our lives for the kingdom of your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION



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Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our wilfulness and seek his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.



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Gracious God, we have come to
see that our lives fall far short
of your glory.

Have mercy and forgive us.



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You have given your Son for us,
and poured out your Spirit, yet
we fail to return your love with
all our heart.

Have mercy and change us.



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Too often we are selfish and proud, ignoring you and neglecting others.

Have mercy and cleanse us.



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When we do not truly trust and obey you, we are overwhelmed by self-pity, fear and worry.

Have mercy and deliver us.



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In Christ we are given a sure hope and secure love, yet we follow the false hopes and desires of this world.

Have mercy and renew us.



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Father, through the redeeming death of your Son, by your Spirit, and through your word, enable us to follow you with joy.

All this we ask, confident of your faithfulness and love.

Amen.



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Our God fulfils his promises and is true to his word.

We have confessed our sins. God has forgiven us, because Christ died for us.

Amen. Thanks be to God.



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OFFERTORY

**Gracious God accept these gifts,
and with them our lives, to be used
in your service, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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READING: JOHN 1:9 -13

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,



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the world did not recognize 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—



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13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



**RUN TO
THE
FATHER**



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REFLECTION: A FRESH START : CHILDREN OF GOD



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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These are responsive prayers after
“Father hear our prayer”

Please respond with,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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Lord we thank you for the privilege you have given us to be able to pray for others. We know the power of prayer in our own lives and we give you thanks for past answered prayers. We focus now on others.



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We lift before you our
neighbourhood for the work of
Connecting Bowthorpe, for the
Cloth of Kindness, for all initiatives
that share your saving message and
bounty in our community.



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Father hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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We pray our NHS service beleaguered by the numbers infected with Covid and needing hospitalisation while also trying to vaccinate the vulnerable and key workers. We pray for an end to the pandemic, through vaccination and



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by not mixing with others as hard
as that is to do.

Father hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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We pray for our children and their teachers. That until it is safe to fully have face to face teaching again that through technology learning, education and opportunities will not be lost.



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Father hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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We pray for the hurting the lost and the sick. Send them your comfort, peace. For those who have lost hope rekindle those embers within them, fan them back into flame. Send protection for the powerless



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and hold them close to your heart.
Especially those who suffer because
they follow you.
Father hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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Lord we pray for the leaders of our nation that at such a difficult time they are surrounded by Godly councillors so that they make decisions of integrity, justice, fairness and morality.



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Lord wrap Mark and all his family
in your arms may they know your
peace and comfort as they grieve
the loss of Mark's mother.

All these things we pray in Jesus'
name. **Amen.**



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be
done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.



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**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and
the glory are yours now and for
ever. Amen.**



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I AM A CHILD
OF GOD



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CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Lord Jesus Christ, send us out with confidence in your word, to tell the world of your saving acts, and bring glory to your name.
Amen.



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And the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be with you
and all whom you love, now
and for evermore.

Amen.



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Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.
Amen.**



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I leave you with this thought on all
being children of God and valuing
others as we value ourselves, family
and friends

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN



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