

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

10/01/2021 -- New Years' Church Parade - Welcome

Searching for Jesus in 2021



A HAPPY 2021 TO ALL

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

'Why were you searching for me?' he asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?'

Luke 2:49

Good morning and welcome to our first Church Parade of 2021 and although we are still in lockdown we gather as part of church community.

Our first hymn today is "Build your Kingdom Here"

[Build Your Kingdom Here - Rend Collective Experiment - YouTube](#)

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit, come invade us now
We are Your Church
And we need Your power
In us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church
And we pray revive
This earth (we're prayin' for revival)

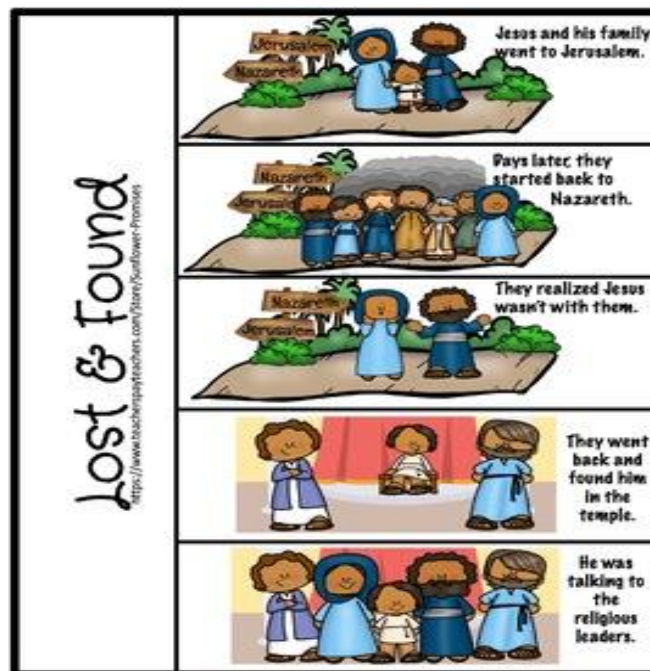
Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray

Unleash Your kingdom's power
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
Oh, and we are the hope
On earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray

Our reading today are taken from Luke 2:41-52

[Luke 2: 41-52 NIVUK - The boy Jesus at the temple - Every - Bible Gateway](#)



Searching for Jesus!

Have you ever lost sight of your mum or dad, or child if you're a parent? I remember my mum taking me Christmas. I was looking for toys but mum was looking for clothes. I didn't want to look for clothes! So I wandered off on my own to find the toys. I was now quite happy.

However, mum didn't know where I was. Of course she panicked as she began looking all over the store for me. When she couldn't find me she went to the front of the shop and have someone announce over the intercom, "Would Phyllicia Poynter please come to the front of the store immediately?"

When I heard my name broadcast for all to hear I was very surprised so happily made my way to the front of the shop. When my mum saw me her face changed from fear to smiling. But then one second later, her relief turned into anger, and the lecture began: "Where have you been? Do you know what you put me through? Don't you ever leave my sight again!" I tried to defend myself but it was no good. Needless to say, I was in more trouble when I got home.

Has this ever happened to you? You are shopping when an announcement comes over the store's loudspeaker, "May I have your attention please? We are looking for a six-year-old child who is lost. His name is John and he is wearing blue jeans and a red shirt. If you find John, please bring him to the customer service center." How did this child become lost? Perhaps he just wandered off to look at the toys and his parents left him behind. Maybe the child's mother and father each thought he was with the other parent and went on about their shopping. You can imagine how concerned the parents were when they realized that the child was missing. How about John? How do you think he felt? If he was having a good time playing in the toy department, just like I was, he probably never even knew that he was lost! Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? Were you afraid, or were you confident that your parents would find you and everything would be alright.



Do you think Jesus ever got lost? We don't know a lot about the childhood days of Jesus. The Bible doesn't tell us very much about Jesus as a child, but today's Bible reading does tell us a story about a day when Jesus became lost.

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for a festival called Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. When the celebration was ended, Joseph and Mary started home to Nazareth. Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. At first, his parents didn't miss Him. They assumed he was traveling with some of their friends. When evening came and Jesus still didn't show up, they became worried. They looked among their friends and relatives but Jesus was no-where to be found.

When they couldn't find Jesus, Joseph and Mary returned to Jerusalem to search for him there. They searched for three days before they finally found him. Do you know where he was? He was in the Temple, sitting among the religious leaders, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at the knowledge of this young boy.

As you can imagine, Mary and Joseph were happy to find Jesus, but perhaps they were like my mum happiness to relief, to anger and a little displeased with him. "Son," Mary said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic with worry. We searched for you everywhere."

"Why did you need to search for me?" Jesus replied. "Didn't you know that I would be doing my Father's business?"

As we hear this story, we sometimes wonder how Mary and Joseph could have been so careless as to go off and leave Jesus behind in Jerusalem. But before we become to critical of Joseph and Mary, perhaps we should look at our own life. Do we sometimes become so focused on what we are doing that we leave Jesus completely out of the picture?

When we realize that we have left Jesus behind, we need to do what Joseph and Mary did. We need to go back to the place where we left him. That's where we will find him... right where we left him.



Let us Pray:

Lord we thank you for your amazing story. We thank you for birth of your son. Help us in this new year not to lose sight of Jesus.

Lord we ask for your forgiveness for all our mistakes, we are sorry for the things we have done wrong and ask that you make our hearts as white as snow.

Please Lord help us feel the warmth of your love surrounding us in all we do and in all our hopes for the future. Amen

Our second Hymn is “I the Lord of Sea and Sky”

[Here I Am Lord - Daniel O'Donnell - with lyrics.wmv - YouTube](#)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?



Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them
Whom shall I send?



Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord? ..

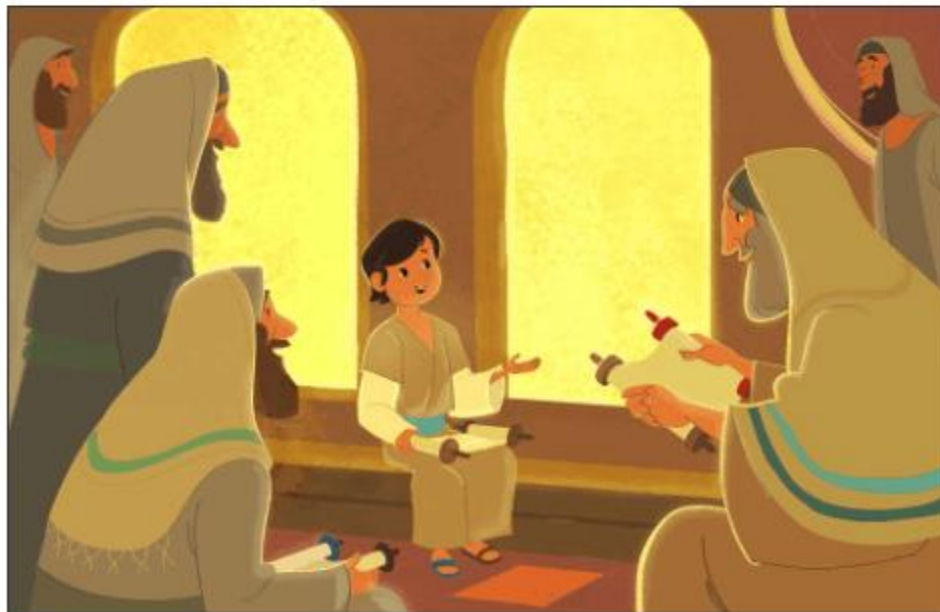
I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?



Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?

Spot the Differences for Where was Jesus

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 16 things that are different.



**MAY GODS BLESSING SURROUND YOU
EACH DAY
AS YOU TRUST HIM AND WALK IN HIS WAY;
MAY HIS PRESENCE WITHIN
GUARD AND KEEP YOU FROM SIN.
GO IN PEACE, GO IN JOY, GO IN LOVE!**