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Issue 119

# The Next Step

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## Canberra Aboriginal Church

Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist Tradition) and Canberra Aboriginal Church  
Worship Services SUSPENDED due to COVID-19 coronavirus threat

### 'And did those feet in ancient time' now best known as 'Jerusalem'

And did those feet in ancient time,  
Walk upon Englands mountains green:  
And was the holy Lamb of God,  
On Englands pleasant pastures seen!

And did the Countenance Divine,  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here,  
Among these dark Satanic Mills?

Bring me my Bow of burning gold:  
Bring me my Arrows of desire:  
Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold:  
Bring me my Chariot of fire!

I will not cease from Mental Fight,  
Nor shall my Sword sleep in my hand:  
Till we have built Jerusalem,  
In Englands green & pleasant Land.

William  
Blake



This hymn started life as a poem found in the preface William Blake wrote for inclusion with his 'Milton, a Poem'. Written in 1804 and put to music by Sir Hubert Parry in 1916, it became very popular during the 20th century being regarded as an unofficial English National Anthem and used on many occasions for that purpose.

The committed, non-conformist Christian Blake, 'a Romantic whose poetry and paintings often tended towards the bonkers end of "visionary"', 'was inspired by the apocryphal story that a young Jesus, accompanied by Joseph of Arimathea, a tin merchant, travelled to what is now England and visited Glastonbury during his unknown years'. 'Diarmaid MacCulloch, professor of church history at the University of Oxford, describes the legend as "totally implausible".' He also comments "'Blake was a mystic, and he was saying, in his lovely poetry, that God dwells everywhere - including England.'"

While not claiming the legend to be true, Blake references it in the first half of the poem and asks if a little part of heaven (Jerusalem) had come to the early industrial revolution England that he knew and disliked.

Blake talks of arming himself for a mental fight and mentions a chariot of fire, a reference to the way Elijah was taken directly to heaven in 2 Kings 2: 11.

Blake intends wielding his sword (which is the Word of God - Ephesians 6: 17) until the new Jerusalem (God's dwelling place - Revelation 21: 2,3) encompasses England.

This is certainly a rousing hymn, however to me it is a little obscure in what it is saying, particularly to someone with little or no Biblical knowledge. Even scholars debate precisely what Blake was meaning in writing these words. (What does it say to the crowds who sing it at The Last Night of the Proms and similar occasions?) It does contain a glimpse forward to a time when God dwells amongst us in a new heaven and new earth which is an encouragement to continue in our faith and service.

The Methodist Hymn Book we use contains this poem, but not in the Hymn section. It is Number 1 in the Verses part of the book and has a suggested tune different to Sir Hubert's. A particularly English hymn, I enjoy hearing it, but it is one I would select very sparingly for worship, especially here in Australia.

the information above was found in Wikipedia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/And\\_did\\_those\\_feet\\_in\\_ancient\\_time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/And_did_those_feet_in_ancient_time)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Blake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Blake) & <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35304508>

## Chaplains

Please pray that the chaplains we particularly support can adapt their ministries to the conditions we all currently face. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



It really is a small world (as we observed recently). Ruth mentioned that when she was quite young, Doug Nicholls (see Next Step 118) visited her home on a number of occasions. She is unsure of the connection with Doug Nicholls but it was a home where visitors often came.

Please remember those who are unwell or are receiving ongoing treatment. Dawn, Ruth and Ian H. have all had recent spells in hospital.

### Devotional material



Prayer



### Contacts

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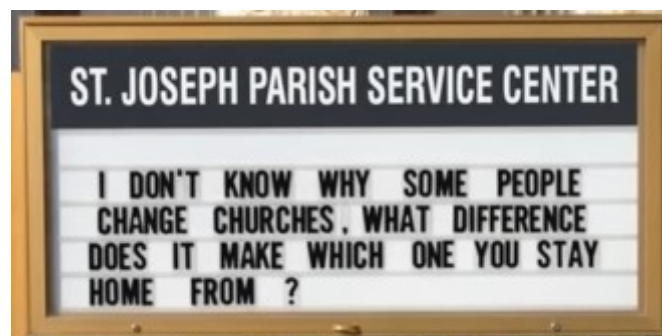
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### Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

## MORE CHURCH SIGNS



There is no high like the Most High

We love hurting people

Get an Afterlife

God answers Knee-mail



Gossip is the Devil's radio. R U his DJ?

Eternity is a long time to think about where you went wrong

What is Hell like? Come and hear our preacher!

## Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia, that they will stay safe and coronavirus free
- for Aboriginal pastors across the nation as they minister in these changed conditions
- for Bible translators working to make the Bible available to Aboriginal people in their own language

and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church Sunday virtual gatherings for worship and fellowship using ZOOM that have been well supported.

