

Sunday 30th August 2020

The paper-version Service

*The church is meeting on paper, online
and on Sunday at 9.30am in the Building*



All of our services are online www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk but this weekly sheet captures our Sunday service for those without internet.

To Begin: Find a Bible. If safe, perhaps light a candle. Find a comfortable place and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read; or even sing, the modern song from this Sunday's Service set out below.



Opening Prayer: Father God, thank you that you are all sufficient. Help us to come openly to you, the source of love, life, and hope, ready to receive all that you want to pour into us this day. Father we receive your forgiveness, your grace, and your power to be able to move forwards in praise, worship, and loving service to you today. Equip us and your whole church to be your disciples, who ourselves make disciples of others. **Amen**

Song:

*I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree*

*And then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King*

*His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone*

O praise the name...

*He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints*

*O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forevermore*

My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

*For endless days we will sing Your
praise*

O praise the name...

Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

Read: Psalm 63.

Trust (*A summary of the talk given by Howard Wright*).

Thirst is a natural response to dehydration. When we feel thirsty, it is a sign that we need water. Water is the most thirst-quenching liquid and we need to be topped up frequently.

Our bodies comprise around 60% water, apparently. That is about 42L (9 gallons) of mine! Stop drinking and we will be sick and die within a few days.

David said he was thirsty. He wrote this Psalm while, as king, he was on the run in the desert of Judah, most likely from his murderous son who wants the throne. He is forced to camp out in the wilderness, and he is thirsty.

What would we 'thirst' and long for? If I were David in the wilderness? I would have craved a comfortable bed, a hot shower and decent food, and of course in today's age, an internet connection!

Lockdown has been a wilderness experience – we are distanced from each other, from routines and habits, from friends and family. Plans have had to be changed and events cancelled. What has this caused us to thirst and hanker for?

What David thirsts for is the presence of God. Read v. 1 again.



David found that this is the one thing he actually needs. The wilderness is a time for reassessment of priorities – even Jesus entered the wilderness!

Jesus said: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' Matthew 5:6. And, 'Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and all these other things will be added to you...' Matthew 6:33.

David had encountered God's presence – 'I have seen you...' (:2) he says. He knows that God's love is better than life (:3) and he remembers that God is faithful and will rescue him.

1. David knows God is vital

Water is important, vital for life. How much more vital is the water which God offers.

Jesus said to the woman at the well in Samaria: '...If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water...' '...Everyone who drinks this water will

be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' John 4:10, 12-13

And again, 'Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' John 7:37



Dutch theologian Herman Bavink once wrote, "God, and God alone, is man's highest good. God is the source and sustainer of all good. He and he alone, is the abundant fountain of all goods."

I have noticed that I have missed and craved many things during this strange time, but the thing I really need is the presence of God. Read v. 1 again!

2. David remembers and sings.

Read vs. 6-7. In the night, things always seem much worse, but David taught himself to remember God. David's first mentor, Samuel, had

many years previous, set up the stone Ebenezer, which meant, 'thus far the Lord has helped us.'

David remembered the stories of God's faithfulness and rescue, including his own experience. He clung on to God and sang!

We forget, and we need to keep remembering. Communion is a remembering meal, but while not possible at the moment, we can use every meal as a remembering, as we bless God (say grace) before eating.

Like many of us carry water with us much of the day, so David carried the Lord in his heart, remembering and recalling God to his mind.

3. Conclusion

God challenges us, 'My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.' (Jeremiah 2:13)

And God invites us, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare." (Isaiah 55:1-2)

So, come and drink from God today, and be satisfied, as was David.

Prayers: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

- Pray for this day, and the coming week
- Pray for the nations, their leaders, and peoples pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, for neighbours, for family and friends
- Pray for the Church



Collect for 12th after Trinity: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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. 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.

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, COGS, the communities around us and our whole nation. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

The Notices: If you know of others who'd like to receive this, or you'd rather not receive it; or if you find yourself isolated and not able to get neighbours, friends or family to help, then ring Howard, 01420 563344.

Church Services: Sunday 9.30am with safety measures in place.

APCM: Our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October, we are hoping to meet in the building with online access. We will be electing new churchwardens, Deanery Synod and PCC members. Please be praying for those God is calling – perhaps yourself!

