

16th June, 2024

The paper-version Service



To Begin: Find a Bible and a comfortable place. If safe, light a candle 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 song from this Sunday's Service.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song:

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, Thine only crown.

O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but Thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Saviour!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
look on me with Thy favour,
vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
for this, Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?

O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for Thee.

Be near when I am dying,
O show Thy cross to me!
And, for my succour flying,
come, Lord, to set me free:
these eyes, new faith receiving,
from Thee shall never move;
for he who dies believing
dies safely.

The Sermon by Rev. Howard Wright: Shinning like stars

Read Philippians 2:12-18 and John 8:12-20

Today is Father's Day. Surely there is no better father than God, and we as his children are both, as we shall see, encouraged to be like him – to take on the family likeness and join in the family business. For those of us privileged to be fathers, why would aim for anything less?

Last week, Timothy spoke on having the mind of Christ, (read Philippians 2:1-5), a reminder to take on this family likeness. Today's reading continue the same theme.

Because of what God is like, (:9 God exalted him...) in Jesus, (:12) we are told to 'continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ...' . Whatever our current status as a Christian, we have to keep fit – see 1 Timothy 4:8.

If we fail to work out, and exercise physically, we very quickly lose muscle mass, and with it, stamina, balance, and strength. Hence the expression, 'use it or lose it.' We do have to take responsibility for our own physical well-being, to eat and drink properly, exercise frequently, and take appropriate rest. Interestingly, as someone on programme of physiotherapy, there is a non-completion of physio rate of between 50-65%.

For our spiritual well-being we are firstly given, God's word, read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Eating physically well might be important, but God's word trumps this for our wholeness and complete well-being, read Deuteronomy 8:3, quoted by Jesus in Matthew 4:4.

Secondly we have a connection through prayer. None of us are experts at prayer, but we can keep practicing!

Thirdly, we have the power of the Holy Spirit, which leads us to flip side working out.

God works in. See verse 13: ' for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. We have to work-out, but it's ultimately

God's work and for his glory. He made us, he bought us at a price on the cross, we belong to him – and the best we can do is be his.

You want to be the person, the man or woman, that father, or person that God made you to be, then belong to The Father – see 2 Corinthians 3:18.

We are to take on that likeness and shine like stars – see versus 14-15. Read Matthew 5:14-16. Be a star, not a torch – with a torch you can choose when, and where to shine, a star just shines – everywhere and all the time.

Verse 14 says, 'Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ...'. Stars are not grumpy. This verse is an allusion to the Exodus and the complaining which kept the people of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years. Dale Carnegie, the author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People*: "Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain – and most fools do."

The antidote to grumbling and arguing is an attitude of gratitude. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Philippians 4:4. And note Matthew 12:33-37.

We are to be a beacon of light, see Daniel 12:3. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

So let us work out our salvation, let us allow God to work in us, and let us shine like stars to the glory of God, showing God's love in everything we do.

3rd Sunday after Trinity: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through 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 forever. Amen.*

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, St Andrews and The Good Shepherd, 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).

At the Church of the Good Shepherd

- Tea and Chat: June 19th at 2pm in the Church Hall.
- Tea and Bowls: June 19th at 2pm in the Church.
- Coffee and Questions: June 26th at 10.30am in the Church Hall.
- Tea and Praise: 3pm Sunday, TBA
- The Community Cupboard, 2:45pm every Thursday in Church.

For Further information:

This paper and all parish details are on the website at <https://www.pariahofmedsteadandfourmarks.co.uk>