

# 29th Sept., 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.**

**Hymn:**

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is  
mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim  
way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day  
to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to  
fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so  
near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

## **The Sermon by Andy Walters**

### **Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and Mark 3:1-19 – Being Called**

The first section about the Sabbath is at the end of a line of confrontations about the Sabbath with Jesus and the Pharisees.

But the hand-man and what's going on at the lake, and then the reason why Jesus called the disciples, kind of link all three together quite nicely.

So I want to start with the Pharisees and the Sabbath.

And the Pharisees are really quite a cold-hearted bunch, and they reminded me of a time when I went to see my bank manager in the day when we had a bank.

It's now boarded up and the manager, I don't know what happened to him, but I wanted a loan for a start-up in business and he said, by rights, I shouldn't give you a loan because your figures don't look too good and I'm not even starting so he said but if you can look in my eye and tell me which one is glass, I'll give you the loan so I stared into his eyes you're beginning to think it's made up aren't you I stared into his eyes and I said, I think it's the right eye. He said, how do you know that? I said, well, the right eye has a glint of humanity in it.

Well, there's not a lot of glint of humanity with these Pharisees, is there?

They have laden burdens on the ordinary people because they are so obsessed with the Sabbath that we have to keep it.

They have turned the table, The Sabbath was made for them, not for them, for the Sabbath, as David rightly pointed out last week, and we've been going on over the last few weeks about this.

But they burden these people. They've come from Jerusalem.

We are at the beginning of Mark's Gospel and there is stuff happening and they are not sure what it is.

Jesus is challenging them, isn't he? What is better, to do good or evil? Jesus is doing the same. He's bending the rules, but the right way around for the right direction.

He's God incarnate. It's him that we follow isn't it?

And of course, it's hardened their hearts, and it's driving them apart from the common people, the ordinary people, the people in need.

And withered-hand man is one of them, isn't he? But what I love most about Jesus and what he does – he uses scripture to condemn them.

And I think if we take nothing else from this, the idea of sitting down and praying and reading prayerfully scripture and asking Jesus to help us guide us in our life, that would be just enough, wouldn't it?

I'm absolutely sure the guy has been on his knees with this burden of his injured hand and the burdens and rules that surround him.

And so Jesus works straightaway, he heals him, doesn't he?

He's being obedient and he's offered his hand to be healed. He's got a new mission in life isn't he? He's going to want to share this. It's just nice for me to believe it could be one just like us, which I'm sure he is.

Jesus wants to connect with the common man. He wants to build, let people know that the coming of the kingdom is near, if that near it's with them at this point.

And the poor, blind Pharisees have gone off to plot to kill. They have chosen the wrong path, haven't they?

We can see here. Jesus heads to the lake with the others. When he gets there, people are coming from all over.

They are tired and sit down. In the early part of his ministry Jesus must have been so infectious.

We're just so enamoured by the whole feeling of being near Jesus, but actually to be physically with him was wonderful.

You can imagine if you were there, you could do that right now.

You can imagine all the roaring crowds and the people with the needy and come to Him. Praise God.

**18th Sunday after Trinity:** Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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: October 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Church Hall.
- Tea and Bowls: October 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Church.
- Coffee and Questions: October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10.30am in the Church Hall.
- Tea and Praise: 3pm Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>
- 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>