

10th August, 2025

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:

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen
One,
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross,
My sin upon His shoulders,
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me
life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

The Sermon by Val Lucas: Psalm 100 – Shout for Joy

It is considered one of the most widely known and loved psalms, often referred to as the 100th or Jubilate. It's a psalm many know off by heart and it is probably the only one I can recite or sing. Ian White , psalms vol 4 put the psalm into music and the song is well worth listening too.

Verse 3, Know that the Lord is God, it's he who made us, we are his, we are his people the sheep in his pasture. This is a powerful truth, be still and know I am God. There is no other. We need to really understand who we are praying too, God is our creator and we are his people, we belong to him and are deeply loved and cared by him.

The imagery of sheep and pasture reflects God's role as a shepherd who provides and cares for His flock, drawing from the Hebrew understanding of a close, protective relationship. Sheep trust the shepherd, they know his voice. We are sheep in his pasture and we submit to God's ways. As humans we have always had a problem with this. From Adam and Eve we've always wanted to take God's place trying to play the role of God in our own lives. In our prayer time we need to remember the acronym JOY Jesus others your self.

In our prayer life as in all our Christian walk we put Jesus first, then others and lastly ourselves. This stops us from praying to Jesus with a shopping list of our desires and wants. It embodies Jesus teachings and places him firmly at the Centre of our lives. We then allow God to be God. Psalm 100 4 enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name.

This verse from Psalms 100:4 tells us how to approach God.... with thanksgiving and praise. The act of entering into His gates signifies coming into a place that is holy and sacred.

Make thankfulness a large part of your prayer time. Studies have shown that gratitude can increase happiness and encouragement. Being thankful means recognizing the blessings God has showered upon us. It's easy to forget our blessings during tough times, but this verse invites us to reflect on what we have, rather than what we lack. We acknowledge God's provision, love, power and unwavering support. Therefore it's essential to give thanks in our prayer time, even if we don't feel very thankful, Thessalonians 5.18 tells us to give thanks in all circumstance, there is always something in every day to be thankful for.

It is suggested as you go through the day to look out for things to be thankful for. . Saying thank you prayers throughout the day can bring comfort and peace and bring us into the presence of God. Every moment is an opportunity to give thanks to God.

In your daily prayers acknowledging 5 things you are thankful for at the end of each day. Write them in a journal and at the end of a week there will be lots of encouraging things to thank God for. Share with others the things we have been thankful for, this encourages others in their prayer time too. God answers prayers and this is an indisputable fact.

Our prayer life contains praise. Praise is glorifying God for who He is. When we praise Him, we recognize His attributes — His love, mercy, grace, omnipotence and goodness. Praise is not silent it is an act of spiritual warfare. Joshua praised and shouted and the walls of Jericho came down. Play your praise music loud during your prayer time. Praise shifts the focus from our problems to his power. Praise is a choice, by focusing on God's character through praise, we not only honour Him but also lift ourselves above the challenges we may be facing. It transforms our hearts and minds, when we praise and remember the characteristics and truths about God we cannot help but be joyful.

Lastly, entering God's courts symbolizes an invitation into deeper fellowship with Him. God desires us to come closer and experience His presence intimately. It is not confined to physical locations; it is about our state of being. Thus, when we consciously make a choice to be thankful and praise Him, we find ourselves entering into a sacred space with God, where the noise of the world fades, and His peace reigns in our hearts. There is no better place to do this than our prayer time.

The fifth and final verse, contains a lot of prayer pointers "For the Lord God is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations"

We affirm in prayer that we know God is good and his actions towards us are always grounded in love. In our prayers it is this goodness that gives us hope and a firm assurance that are prayers are always listened too and answered in God's unfailing wisdom.

God is good all the time! Even though we fall short, we can be confident that his goodness, mercy and loving kindness is everlasting and knows no end. He has been faithful throughout the generations and when we pray we

know he will be with us today and every day. As we pray and enter his presence we are confident we can trust him with every area of our life and in every difficult situation and circumstance. 100 5 provides great comfort and reassurance that in our prayer life, we can be ourselves and hold nothing back. God knows and sees everything and there is nothing we can hide from him. We are secure in our identity and safe in his flock. We have every good reason to shout and sing his praises. We have confidence in God's love for us now, and confident about his love in the future.

8th Sunday after Trinity: *Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 and Bowls: August 20th at 2pm in Church Hall & Church.
- Coffee and Questions: August 27th at 10.30am in Church Hall.
- 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>