



## AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025

*compiled by Vicki Penfound – Lay Assistant*

### Opening words: *Psalm 9 v 1-2*

*I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;*

*I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*

*I will be glad and rejoice in you;*

*I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.*

### Hymn: 1 Singing the Faith

1] All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,  
come ye before him and rejoice.

2] The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make:  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3] O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his Name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

4] For why? the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

5] To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heaven and earth adore,  
from earth and from the angel host  
be praise and glory evermore.

*William Kethe (d.1594)*

### Prayer:

Loving God,  
You have inspired people through the ages  
To offer prayer and praise to you.  
We add our voices to theirs  
Holy is your Name,  
Our Creator, Saviour, and Guide  
May our worship today lead us  
Into a fresh encounter with you  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
One God in perfect unity. Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

## Hymn: 544 Singing the Faith

1] As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after You  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You

*You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You*

2] I want You more than gold or silver  
Only You can satisfy  
You alone are the real joy giver  
And the apple of my eye

3] You're my friend and You're my brother  
Even though you are a King  
I love You more than any other  
So much more than anything.

*Martin Nystrom (b.1956)*

## Reading: Psalm 1

Blessed is the one  
    who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
    or sit in the company of mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
    and who meditates on his law day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
    which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither –  
    whatever they do prospers.  
Not so the wicked!  
    They are like chaff  
    that the wind blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
    nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

## Reflection:

If you were asked “What is your favourite song?” what would it be? Why would it be your favourite? Perhaps the lyrics touch your heart in a unique way, or the tune captivates you. Maybe it is your favourite not because of artistic merit but because of the memories it evokes. For many people the music that they prefer is that which formed the backdrop to teenage years. My taste is eclectic but early 80s music will always be special for me.

What about our hymn choices? Today's hymns are all from the Psalms, which was the hymn book of the Bible. It was put together in the time of the seventy years of exile in Babylon and would have been the new hymnal for the new temple when the people returned with Ezra and Nehemiah. There is an order to it, and it is in five distinct sections, reflecting the five books of the Torah (Genesis to Deuteronomy). So, Psalm One is very deliberately put first. Get the first step right before you go any further. It's an invitation into a life of worship and relationship.

It's personal. The writer, thought to be Ezra himself, doesn't let you get lost in the crowd; he is saying that your individual power to choose is what makes the difference. Do not be immersed in the influences of those who do not know God - but delight in the law of the Lord. The Law here is not confined to rules. It's the whole Torah, stories of faith and faithfulness, encouragement and correction, the promises of God.

The metaphor of the tree by the water is a powerful and easily understood one. We need to be close to the source of life, nourished by God's strength. The tree is planted deep and firm; it can withstand hardship because it has continual access to water. Jeremiah uses the same metaphor in chapter 17, probably inspired by this Psalm. A healthy tree is a fruitful tree; its existence is not solely for its own good but affects the lives of others. Jesus often used the metaphor of fruitfulness, famously in John 15 speaking of himself as the True Vine. Our purpose is not only to live and thrive, but to bear fruit that others may benefit.

In contrast, living a wicked life will bring consequences of waste and destruction. The message is clear as the worshippers sing this Psalm, be different, choose to follow the way of God, make your life of worship, make a difference in the world in which you live and your life will be a song of praise.

#### **Let us pray:**

God of music and song,  
Thank you for the Psalms.  
Every mood is reflected there,  
Joy and despair, gratitude and anger,  
People being honest with you in creative, poetic ways.  
Help us to delve into the worship and wisdom,  
Seeking your face amid all kinds of circumstances.  
We share the songs of lament with victims of war,  
We share the songs of despair with those who are  
Afflicted with illness, grief and anxiety.  
We share the songs of pilgrimage with those who  
Walk on, seeking a better way of living.  
We share the songs of joy with those who  
Have found their strength in you.  
We share the songs of peace with those who  
Rest in you.  
Help us to be as trees rooted deep by the waters of life  
That we may flourish in goodness and bear fruit  
To bless others in your Name. Amen

**Hymn: 455 Singing the Faith**

1] All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew,  
me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

2] Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray our trust;  
what with care and toil we fashion,  
tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

3] God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of nought.  
Evermore from his store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.

4] Daily doth the almighty Giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.

5] Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ, his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Joachim Neander (1650-1680)*

**Blessing:**

May you sing along  
In tune with God the master composer  
Songs of liberty, of justice and peace  
Being an instrument of hope and everlasting love,  
From this world into the heavenly realms  
In Jesus' Name. Amen

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