



St Edmund's Taverham with St Peter's Ringland

Welcome to our worship
for Sunday October 11th 2020

Our gathering song (written by Robert Walmsley)

Come let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true
Out of the heart of the Father above
Streaming to me and to you
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell, joyfully came
Came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell
Sharing their sorrow and shame
Seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet, why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget
Home, weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love, come and abide
Lifting my life till it rises above
Envy and falsehood and pride
Seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of Thee

Call to Worship

Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:
That it is not we who chose Christ,
but Christ who chose us,
That we are not here because of our goodness
but because of Christ's grace,
That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,
but to allow Christ to enlighten us,
That we have not come to be entertained
but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

~ written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home page.
<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

One of the readings set for today is Psalm 23. Perhaps the most well - known Psalm it has brought comfort to many with its words of calm and hope.

You, Lord, are my shepherd.

I will never be in need.

2 You let me rest in fields
of green grass.

You lead me to streams
of peaceful water,

3 and you refresh my life.

You are true to your name,
and you lead me
along the right paths.

4 I may walk through valleys
as dark as death,
but I won't be afraid.

You are with me,
and your shepherd's rod
makes me feel safe.

5 You treat me to a feast,
while my enemies watch.

You honour me as your guest,
and you fill my cup
until it overflows.

6 Your kindness and love
will always be with me

each day of my life,
and I will live forever
in your house, Lord.

(Contemporary English Version)

As we reflect on these ancient words scripture let's continue to worship the One who is not only the Good Shepherd but also the Light of the world the by singing together.

Song (Here I am to worship written by Tim Hughes)

Light of the World

You stepped down into darkness

Opened my eyes, let me see

Beauty that made this heart adore You

Hope of a life spent with You

So here I am to worship

Here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the Earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Matthew 22 : 1 - 14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.'

You may like to spend some time reflecting on the words of this passage. What do you hear Jesus saying as he tells this story? How do you respond to these words?

You may like to read Rev Paul's thoughts in the St Ed's newsheet or thought for the week on the St Peter's webpage.

Let us pray.

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Song (translated by Mary E Byrne)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought in the day and the night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father and I Thy true child
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be Thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight
Be Thou my armour, and be Thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my high tower
Raise Thou me Heavenward, O power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise
Thou mine inheritance, through all my ways
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of Heaven, when the battle is done
Grant Heaven's joy to me, bright Heaven's sun
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all

Psalm 23 Blessing

In the lush pastures of life that hold meeting places with love,
may your feet know the way to find them.

By the still waters of the running stream,
may your hands shape a cup it and drink deep from it.

In the valley of death's shadow that ever threatens,
may your sense of life find the way through.

At the banqueting table set before your enemies,

may your cup be full and overrunning.

Like the anointing oil that runs down your head,
may the blessing that is you spill into the world with eternal promise.

In the way a shepherd's staff warms off lameness from fear,
may trust be your protective companion on the way.

Through each day's living as it unfolds,
may goodness and mercy make their way into every moment.

At the doorway to the house of the Lord of life,
may you recognise your home and your hearth.

And in the song that makes a dwelling-place in your heart,
may its music rise in your soul.

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws.
<http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>