

St John's Church

Contemporary Service

Sunday 25th January 2026

Welcome

Intro

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;,

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths, for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Psalm 23

Prayer

Healing creator

When we feel helpless we can tap into you as our source:

When we are discouraged by our weakness, give us strength to follow Christ.

**our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.**

Songs

The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;

He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters,

His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

Stuart Townend Copyright © 1996 Thankyou Music

There Is A Redeemer

There is a Redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God
Messiah, Holy One

*Thank You, O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving us Your Spirit
'Til the work on earth is done*

Jesus, my Redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God
Messiah, O for sinners slain

*Thank You, O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving us Your Spirit
'Til the work on earth is done*

When I stand in glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve
My King forever
In that holy place

*Thank You, O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving us Your Spirit
'Til the work on earth is done*
Keith and Melody Green

Readings

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Reflection and Response

Tonight is about well. This is no ordinary well! Rather than a deep hole you need to delve down in to find refreshment, this is a fire hydrant. This is what Saul fought so hard against when he was a slave to the law. It is also the mind-blowing re-vision of nature that transformed him, heart and mind into Paul. Throughout his letter to those in Rome he struggles many times to explain the thing that a Samaritan woman understood when she chatted with Jesus at a well.

But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” John 4:23-26

However, like a thirst, or hunger, we sense the absence in our souls and we cannot understand it. We are given no promise that we will not face the valley of the shadow of death, indeed perhaps we are already living in it? But the way out is through. Even if there is no clear path, there is a Way and we make the path through walking. Like water Faith is

fluid but can cut through stone. So perhaps wondering about the correct way to worship is the wrong question, the wrong approach. Instead we can seek to be open to encountering Jesus 'walking' with us. We need to meet God in Spirit with our hearts, and then use our minds to understand what is going on. Or as John Scotus Eriugena might say; we meet Jesus at the well, then fetch our intellect to work out what happened.

Prayers

The response this evening is a time for prayer and discussion.

- We have installed a 'well' you can stand in. This is a heart space. Enter the well and use the music and light to help remember and imagine what it is like to experience worship. Pray, using words when that helps.
- Circle the chairs to enable small group discussion. This is head space. Talk about your experiences of worship. Perhaps write prayers here to take into the heart space.

We can use both spaces in combination and build each other up.

Songs

All Who Are Thirsty

All who are thirsty
All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep
(We sing)

Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come

All who are thirsty
All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow

Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep
(We sing)

Holy Spirit come
Holy Spirit come
Holy Spirit come
Holy Spirit come

Brenton Brown and Glenn Robertson © 1998 Vineyard Songs

Awake my soul

There is a sound I love to hear
It's the sound of the Saviour's robe
As He walks into the room where people pray
Where we hear praises He hears faith
There is a sound I love to hear
It's the sound of the Saviour's robe
As He walks into the room where people pray
Where we hear worship He hears faith

Awake my soul and sing
Sing His praise aloud
Sing His praise aloud
Awake my soul and sing
Sing His praise aloud
Sing His praise aloud

There is a sound that changes things
The sound of His people on their knees
Oh wake up you slumbering
It's time to worship Him

Awake my soul and sing
Sing His praise aloud
Sing His praise aloud
Awake my soul and sing
Sing His praise aloud
Sing His praise aloud

And when He moves
And when we pray
Where stood a wall now stands a way
Where every promise is amen
And when He moves
Make no mistake
The bowels of hell begin to shake
All hail the Lord all hail the King

*Awake my soul and sing
Sing His praise aloud
Sing His praise aloud
Awake my soul and sing
Sing His praise aloud
Sing His praise aloud
Brooke Ligertwood*

Breathe on me

In the beginning was darkness and nothing
Your Spirit was moving over the deep
You spoke a whisper and creation existed
Birthed by the mighty words that You speak

*Just say the word and my weary soul
Will be renewed
Breathe on me O breath of God
And fill me with life anew
Breathe on me O breath of God
And set this heart on fire for You*

Bones in a valley were changed into an army
Raised by Your Spirit's powerful touch
Here in Your presence I'm needing Your refreshing
Lord please revive my heart with Your love

*Just say the word and my weary soul
Will be renewed
Breathe on me O breath of God
And fill me with life anew
Breathe on me O breath of God
And set this heart on fire for You*

Revival fire fall down like the rain
Revival fire set my soul ablaze
Revival fire fall down like the rain
Revival fire set my soul ablaze

*Breathe on me O breath of God
And fill me with life anew
Breathe on me O breath of God
And set this heart on fire for You*
Vicky Beeching

It's great that you were here tonight. We next meet for this service on Sunday 22nd March at 6pm. Hope to see you there. Please join us for refreshments.