



The Methodist Church

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Worship at Home

Week beginning Sunday 9TH August 2020

Lord open our lips to bless you
and our mouths shall declare your praise.
Blessed are you, gracious God
we will give you glory and praise for ever!

**Good morning and welcome to worship on
this day the 9th August. I bring you
greetings, in the name of Christ, from my
little study here in Ripon, it is wonderful to
be sharing worship with you across the
Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit.
This is the day that the Lord has made, we
will rejoice and be glad in it!**

StF NO. 152

- 1 This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made ;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.
- 2 This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again,
when he rose again.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again ;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again.
- 3 This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came,

when the Spirit came.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came ;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came.

Anonymous

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An Opening Prayer

Let us pray:
Loving God, There was a time when each of
us did not exist
And you created us
We did not come to you for a wish
And you have fulfilled it
We had not come into the light

And you have seen us
We had not yet appeared
And yet you have taken pity on us
And you Oh Lord have taken care of us
We did not raise our hands
And yet you looked at us
We had not groaned
And yet you lent an ear
With knowing eyes you saw
the crimes of our guilty lives before we had
been formed
And yet you made us
And now we have been created by you
And saved by you
And you have tended us with great care.
Help us not to perish by the blow of sin
that is but the slanders invention

We pray, don't let the fog of our stubbornness
triumph over the light of your forgiveness

Or the hardness of our hearts overcome your
goodness
nor our weakness overcome your
unconquerable grandeur.
O God, who condescended to washing the

feet of his disciples with sacred hands, thank you for your forgiveness and loving care

Through his name, the name of Jesus, the name above all other names we pray

Amen.

*Prayer translated into modern language-
Gregory of Narek, 95-1001*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name:

Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done;

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us thus day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

For ever and ever, Amen.

Reading: Psalm 23

Message

Today I have decided to jump off the lectionary and use psalm 23 as my reflection,

Sadly, over the past few months I have taken a number of funerals, and of course this Psalm is often used. Recently I spoke of how this particular Psalm is rather like our favourite armchair, it is comfortable, gives support, and it is something on which we can depend. Though these words of course bring comfort to those mourning the loss of a loved one, they can be so often comfort to the living as we encounter the many difficulties that life can bring.

This week I read the words again, and just felt a real sense of awe, they seemed particularly relevant, and I wanted to share it today. This week I sadly lost an old friend, the news came as shock, and these words really spoke to me.

The lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want

*he makes lie down in green Pastures
he leads me besides still waters Verses (1-2)*
Sometimes the "green pastures" don't look so green, do they? and the waters, they are certainly not still. Often, the path before us looks barren and storm-filled.

Truthfully, even when our circumstances look grim, our Good Shepherd is near. Because he is enough and is working on our behalf, we can find beauty, growth, and peace in him in the midst of our hardest circumstance.

If our Good Shepherd laid down his life to save us, his sheep, we certainly can trust his leading (John 10:11-17).

As we continue to read, his paths are "paths of righteousness." God knows best and only leads us down paths which work out for our good and his glory. Remember that passage in romans 8, "**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose**" As we walk through life, God is shaping us into his likeness, the most amazing and gracious thing he could do. It's for "his name's sake" that he does this.

As the psalm proceeds, it reminds us that the good shepherd is with us in our suffering, just as it was with David when he wrote it. David took comfort in this: regardless of his earthly circumstances, he would dwell in the house of the Lord for all eternity. Nothing could steal his salvation, not even death. It is no wonder that his cup overflowed with joy! That promise, that portion is ours too!

All this knowledge and promise is made possible through Jesus, and through Jesus, however difficult life may be, goodness and mercy will certainly follow us, wherever we may go.

Amen

StF No. 480

- 1 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.

From *The New Revised Standard Version*

Prayers of intercession

Loving and listening God

We come before you today and bring the
needs of our world to you,

Today we pray for all those in our world for
whom health care is a luxury and often
unavailable.

We pray for all those around the globe who
dedicate their lives to caring for the sick.

We pray for our local communities as they
begin to rebuild business, find news way to
work, and for families meeting again after
times apart.

Ever-present God, be with those still in
isolation, those who need to quarantine

Be close to us in our distancing, be healing in
our sickness,

Be joy in our sadness, be light in our
darkness,

Be wisdom in our confusion,

Be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,

That when the doors reopen we may with the
zeal of Pentecost inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness to an emerging
world.

All this pray through our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ

Amen

StF No. 548

- 1 Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine :
O what a foretaste of glory divine !
Heir of salvation, purchase of God ;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood :

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight ;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love :
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest —
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love :

Frances Jane van Alstyne, (Fanny Crosby)
(1820–1915) – Public Domain

A Blessing

May the love of Jesus Christ
bring us wholeness,
the grace of God the Father
grant us peace,
the breath of Holy Spirit
instil passion
and the unity between them
give us strength
for this and every day.

Amen