

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Worship at Home Sunday May 8th 2022

Good Morning my name is Jan Goodall, I am a local preacher. Today is the 4th Sunday of Easter. We are still celebrating all that God has done for us in Jesus life, death and resurrection, so let us begin in prayer:-

Prayer

Gracious God, we celebrate your love as we worship together.

Raise our spirits in Jesus' name as we lift our hearts and voices to you this Eastertide.

Hymn 6

Father, we love You,
We worship and adore You;
Glorify Your name in all the earth.
Glorify Your name, glorify Your name,
Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Jesus we love You,
We worship and adore You;
Glorify Your name in all the earth.
Glorify Your name, glorify Your name,
Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Spirit we love You,
We worship and adore You;
Glorify Your name in all the earth.
Glorify Your name, glorify Your name,
Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Prayer of Adoration

It is too wonderful to believe,
It is incredible, astounding, too good to be true
-that Jesus has risen from the dead
And appeared to the disciples.
It is too much to grasp,
It is challenging, comforting, can it be true
-That Jesus sits at God's right hand
And has all authority over heaven and earth?
It is too amazing for words,
It is exciting, exhilarating, it is true
-That Jesus continues to be with us

And pours out His Father's love upon us!
Sometimes the truth is so important that it
overwhelms us.

We praise You, great God, for making these
things happen,
And trust You to continue Your work in our lives.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession (I hope you can respond
with the bold type)

Forgive us Lord, when our eyes are closed to the
needs of others,
when our hearts are closed to you.
Give us your hand and help us up,
that we may be renewed in grace and humility
and enabled to share your love with a wounded
world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer. 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.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
Yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 23 A psalm of David.

¹ **The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.**

² **He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.**

³ **He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honour to his name.**

⁴ **Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.**

**Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.**

**⁵You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.**

**You honour me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.**

**⁶Surely your goodness and unfailing love will
pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.**

Talk 1.

When I read this psalm, I cannot help thinking of David, the youngest of Jesse's eight sons, the expendable one. Sent out on his own to care for the sheep, day and night and protect them from predators and robbers even bears. Alone in the hills, he forged a close relationship with God, learning to trust and rely on God's strength, not his own.

And David saw God as the great shepherd caring for us who will follow Him.

God the carer, God the reviver, God the rescuer and comforter, the lavish host.

This generous and tender God gave David the courage and assurance to face a perilous future. As God does clearly in Jesus, the Shepherd who died for us His sheep, God's love for us knows no limits.

We need fear no evil, even if we should walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

God, the perfect Shepherd will guide and protect us throughout our lives and bring us home to His House forever.

Psalm 23, has been a source of great comfort and hope to many people over the years, and is one of the best known and best loved passages of scripture in the bible today.

Last year at the Chelsea Garden festival, one of the garden's theme was the 23rd Psalm. And visitors commented how revived and restored they felt on visiting it.

Gospel Reading John 10 v22-30 Jesus Claims to Be the Son of God

²²It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. ²³He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's

Colonnade. ²⁴The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name. ²⁶But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. ^[d]No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

Hymn 322

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believers ear
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

Dear name-the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place,
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see thee as though art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy name
Refresh my soul in death.

Talk 2.

At the festival of Hannukah 'dedication,' the Jews remembered how in 167 BC Judas Maccabaeus led a revolt to liberate Jerusalem from, the Greek

ruler who wanted to destroy Judaism. As a result Judas and his family became kings in a dynasty which lasted one hundred years.

The victory of Judas was a vivid, glorious memory for the Jews, And it was probably this type of warlord like King that some people were hoping for, now Judea was under Roman occupation.

Was Jesus the person the Jews were looking for, someone who would become their warrior leader?

By the sound of their question they didn't think Jesus looked like a warlord.

Jesus is God's Messiah not some human warlord. He is the Great Shepherd David wrote about and His sheep, we who believe and trust, will listen to His voice and follow Him.

In Jesus time a shepherd would lead the flock and they would know his voice and follow through rough country till they came to safe pasture.

We too can follow our Shepherd's voice though the darkest valley, even the valley of death, secure in our Father God's hand, travelling with Jesus to eternal life with Him. The littleness of this earthly life will be gone and we will know the splendour and magnificence of life with God.

Jesus always did things God's way, touching base with His Father continually through prayer, as we must do. He is sure of Himself because he is sure of His Father God, He is God-confident.

Jesus is one with God, and we who follow are one flock; one Shepherd, one flock.

Whatever way we worship, our unity, not uniformity, (We are all individuals and loved as such), is the same sort as the unity Jesus has with His Father. Its secret is love, simple as that, we are Gods adopted loved family.

As Jesus said in John 13 v34.

'Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.'

The bond of unity is love and the proof in our lives of that love is obedience to our Shepherd Lord, as we listen to His voice, in prayer and in our daily lives.

Jesus, as no other ever did, obeyed and loved God. He was perfect love and perfect obedience. The perfect example for His flock.

We will not in this life be saved from sorrow, from suffering and from death; but even in a world crashing to disaster, God does prevail. Good does overcome evil. Light does

overcome dark. And Hope does overcome despair. And the Good Shepherd continues to call to His sheep and invites them to hear and follow Him to green pastures, our true Home with Him. And we, God's family and flock must take that love into the world and share it, sharing our faith in word as well as actions.

I am thinking particularly about our young people who today suffer from so much stress and expectations, the effects of covid, bullying, peer pressure, family and school problems, I'm sure you and they could add lots more to that list.

They need their true Shepherd, Jesus.

So I'm finishing with some words from Eddie Askew

On a tour of England some years ago, Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke to some young people. He said, 'God loves you, not because you are beautiful, although you may be. God loves you, not because you are good, although you just might be. God loves you, full stop.'

No trait of personality or behaviour can put an obstacle in the way of real love. Where ever we are, whatever we do, Jesus loves us completely, wholly, and utterly selflessly. I don't understand it, but I gladly accept it.

Prayer of thanksgiving

Loving God,

we give you thanks for those who express their faith in you

and their care of others through their work, through their ministry of hospitality, through their thoughtfulness, through their giving.

May we be inspired through the ordinariness of their discipleship

to see the wonderful extraordinariness of your love

that is alive in their offering of their gifts, their time, and their hearts.

We praise you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray for all who suffer:-

For the victims of war, famine and disease;

For the persecuted and those imprisoned
unjustly;

For the lonely, in desperate need of friendship;

For victims of violence and abuse;

For the bereaved and those who face death;

Great Shepherd guide us in the ways of peace.

Loving Shepherd, hold us safely.

Loyal Shepherd, search for us when we are lost.

Suffering Shepherd, be with us in our hour of
need.

Gentle Shepherd, comfort us in times of pain.

Amen.

Hymn 480

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by..

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own names sake.

Yea though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In the presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Blessing

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to
be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay
down his life and rise again: keep us always under
his protection, and give us grace to follow in his
steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.