

26th February, 2023

The paper-version Service



To Begin: Find a Bible and a comfortable place. If

safe, light a candle and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read, or even sing, the song from this Sunday's Service.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song:

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is ...

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You



The Good
Shepherd
Four Marks

Responding to God's Love

You silenced the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the Kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is ...

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What a powerful Name it is ...

The Sermon by Rev. Greg Eland (Senior Mission and Ministry Trainer for Winchester Diocese) is taken from a presentation he made in Church and is, therefore, not in the usual format.

Jesus makes four calls upon us:

1. Come to him.
2. Be a Jesus follower.
3. Share the love of God through words and deeds.
4. Disciple others in the call of being a Christ' follower.

Jesus' words in Matthew help us to "Grow Deeper in God and Larger in Mission." This deeper and larger is the vision of The Church of the Good Shepherd in Four Marks:

Then Jesus said, Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. And learn from me because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light. Matthew 11:28-3.

In our working to "Grow Deeper in God and Larger in Mission" during the week and not just on Sunday, Jesus helps us define our role by giving us some "You cannot be my disciple, unless ..." statements:

You cannot be my disciple, unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot come with me unless you love me more than you love your own life. Luke 14:26

You cannot be my disciple unless you carry your own cross and come with me.
Luke 14:27

So then, you cannot be my disciple unless you give away everything you own. Luke 14:33.

In the picture below, where is Jesus?

... take my yoke upon me ...

Our response is to come to Him for release from the burden of sin and for rest for our soul.

In our working to "Grow Deeper in God and Larger in Mission", Jesus helps us: Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples". John 8:31

And ... The people in Berea were much nicer than those in Thessalonica, and they gladly accepted the message. Day after day they studied the Scriptures to see if these things were true. Acts 17:11.

In our working to “Grow Deeper in God and Larger in Mission”, Jesus instructs us: But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13: 34,35.

And so, to “Grow Deeper in God and Larger in Mission” A disciple is one who has answered Christ’s call and has accepted the conditions.

And is one who is learning of Christ;
is one who is becoming like his or her master;
is one who loves God’s family;
is committed to Christ mission in the world

So our faces are not covered. They show the bright glory of the Lord, as the Lord's Spirit makes us more and more like our glorious Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18.



Prayers: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:4-6)*



- Pray for this day, and the coming week.
- Pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, neighbours, and for family & friends.
- Pray for the Church.

Collect: First Sunday of Lent. Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: *Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*
Amen.

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, The Good Shepherd, the communities around us and our whole nation. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV).

The Notices: We are now holding services in the building on Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, and are live streaming the 9.30 service. This Paper Service will continue for the moment and is generally available the week after the service.

- Tea and Chat & Bowls: Wed. 15th March at 2pm, Church Hall and Church.
- Coffee and Questions: 22nd March at 11am in Church Hall.
- Tea and Praise: TBA
- COGS Tots: 2nd Mondays. COGS Tinytots: Monday mornings.
- Messy Church: Second Sundays of the month.