

31<sup>st</sup> May, 2026

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.**

**Hymn:**

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Greatest treasure of my longing soul  
My God, like You there is no other  
True delight is found in You alone  
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom  
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach  
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom  
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Strong defender of my weary heart  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver  
And my shield against his hateful darts  
My song when enemies surround me

My hope when tides of sorrow rise  
My joy when trials are abounding  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Gracious Saviour of my ruined life  
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders  
In my place You suffered bled and died  
You rose, the grave and death are conquered  
You broke my bonds of sin and shame  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
May all my days bring glory to Your Name.

## **The Sermon by Jane Hughes**

### **Read John Chapter 17**

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus not only prays for his disciples but also for those who will believe through their message.

Take a moment to reflect. How did I get here?

Who was it that told you about Jesus?

Who introduced you to Jesus, shared their story or maybe a miracle moment?

Who encouraged you in your faith?

Give thanks to God for each person who has been part of your faith Journey.

Each time we gather, we come together as Church family, taking on the family likeness and taking part in the family Business. (Ephesians 5:1-2 and Ephesians 2:10)

Church is called to be many things; people of God are called to:

- gather to worship and praise God,
- pray
- open scripture, open our hearts to God's word
- tell others
- share bread together
- share the gospel, the good news shared with us
- Act, to carry out good works, to be the hands and feet of Jesus on Earth

We are all invited to be part of God's family (Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 1:5), part of a church family, and like all human families, we may not agree with each other in all things, but we are all called to work together as one body (1 Corinthians 12:12; Romans 12:4-7), adults and children and all ages in between. Our children are not the generation of tomorrow any more than those of us who are older are the church of yesterday- we are all called to be one church, working for God's glory, building each other up and encouraging each other in faith.

Part of being church is meeting together, whether in small groups or larger congregations, but an even bigger part is what we do in the everyday.

Looking back to today's Gospel reading, we see Jesus praying for His disciples and for those his disciples tell, this includes not only us but also those we tell and how we grow deeper in Faith.

At times, Jesus' call to go and make disciples can seem overwhelming, leaving us unsure of where to start. Jesus began by sharing His life and building relationships with the twelve disciples. Through His life and stories, Jesus provided insights into what it means to live for God.

He illustrated what living a life of faith looks like (Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount). Jesus used familiar knowledge—such as farming, sowing, wheat, weeds, vineyards, sheep, fishing, and riches like the pearl and the rich man—to help those listening then, and us now, understand the Kingdom of God. He used the "I am" statements to reveal who He is and what He came to do.

How do we share our faith with others and become disciples who make disciples? Is it an easy task? Often, when we first hear about Jesus, it is through someone we know and trust. They may have created windows into their faith by allowing us to observe their daily walk with Jesus, or they may have framed aspects of living with Jesus or the Gospel in a way we could understand. Just as parents at home both show and tell their children to help them understand the world, as a church family, we can both show and tell others about living a life of faith.

We too can share our lives with those around us, building authentic relationships and creating windows into what living a life of faith looks like. This can be as simple as praying before meals, sharing what you have read in the bible that day, or even just leaving the Bible open for others to see, talking about things you have prayed for or what happened at church that week. Or it could involve deeper life questions and discussions.

Jesus, in his prayers, prayed for the disciples and all they told. A couple of chapters later, he commissions them, sending them out in the power of the Spirit. (John 20:21)

God positioned and equipped the first disciples to share their testimony (Acts 2 and throughout Paul's letters). He has positioned us and promises to equip us to share our testimony, our experience of God, and our life with Jesus with those around us in our daily lives.

Take time now to ask God who He is positioning you to share with this week, whom to pray for, whom to meet with, and whom to tell.

**Trinity Sunday:** Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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:** 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*

**Blessing** to be declared over yourselves, St Andrews and 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).

#### **At the Church of the Good Shepherd:**

- Tea and Chat and Bowls: June 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in Church Hall & Church.
- Coffee and Questions: June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in Church Hall.
- The Community Cupboard, 2:45pm every Thursday in Church.

#### **For Further information:**

This paper and all parish details are on the website at <https://www.parihofmedsteadandfourmarks.co.uk>