

Revd Tonya's thought for Sunday 14th June

Psalm 100 Psalm of thanksgiving

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Today I only want to talk about this psalm. It's a psalm of praise, of thanks giving and of joy. However we may ask, 'How can we rejoice? Look at our lives these 10 weeks or so. What is there to be happy about? To give thanks about? All I can see is misery'.

In this psalm, its saying, I believe, even with all that is going on in the world, Covid 19, fighting, hunger, death, let the whole world rejoice in God the Creator. Rejoice in spite of all that is wrong in our world and in our lives. Its saying, look at everything, everything that is awful, look them in the eye and make a joyful noise! Grab it by the neck and shout 'Alleluia'

Why? Why should we do this? Or even want to do this, when there is so much in the world to worry about, when there is so much to lament over?

Why? Because God is still God. All the earth, animals, plants, resources, humans – still belong to God the Creator.

God yearns for us to dwell with him, to enter the Shepherds fold. Why? Here is where we find life and where we find love. We come into Gods presence and all we can do I guess is give praise, give thanks and bless his holy name.

Praise is thanksgiving. Worship whether at home on our own, via our phones and laptops on Zoom, whether walking along a road and listening to the sounds of the world is truly being in the presence of God. Praise is thanksgiving.

So today, let us bask in this psalm, let us pause and marvel at the God who made us and wants to be in our lives. Let our 'Alleluias' rise and let the glad noise begin.

Amen.

