



Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 67

Sunday 13th June 2021

As I write, we are still unsure when we will be able to have normal services in Perry Chapel; soon we hope. However, we are able (under the present guidelines) to have our summer Open Air Service and Picnic in the chapel grounds. This is planned for Sunday 20th June at 5p.m. (Weather permitting)

Psalm 138

'I will praise you, O Lord with all my heart.....for your love and faithfulness.'

I, like so many of us, love the psalms especially those of David. In them we see wonderful hymns of praise to a loving, faithful God; but we also see desperate, heartfelt prayers brought with blazing honesty to that loving, faithful God.

I enjoy hearing a psalm read or sung each Sunday. My Bible reading notes also focus on a psalm every Sunday, which gives me a chance to explore the insights of others. One writer describes this psalm (138) as a 'song of gratitude to a faithful God'. Another says 'this psalm is a study of contrasts'.

The psalm begins with thanks for God's 'love and faithfulness' and it is David's personal praise out of personal experience. The name and word of the Lord is 'exalted above ALL things' and the psalmist talks of singing God's praise before the 'gods'.

In this last year many have found that the things 'we exalted' or that, for some, were like 'gods', a secure job of work, good health, enjoying a sport, socialising with friends; have been unavailable or lost. But we can say, with David, 'when I called you answered me'; yes, the Lord is faithful. David also testifies to the result of the Lord answering 'you made me bold and stout-hearted'. A promise for each of us that whatever has 'failed' or is 'not available' we have confidence to go forward in 'His name' and by 'His word'.

This psalm of contrasts then turns from personal to international concerns. The psalmist prays for the 'kings of the earth' that they may 'hear the words....and sing of the ways of the Lord'.

We echo David's prayers.

We pray for world leaders as they meet this week and in the coming months.

We pray for wisdom in the many complex issues and compassion for those most in need.

We pray for our own leaders locally and nationally as they weigh up the current situation.

David, in our psalm, reminds us that 'the Lord on high' looks 'kindly on the lowly'. We have a God who cares about those who are powerless, the weak, and the vulnerable.

David's psalm ends on a personal note; the Lord also cares for him. 'Though I walk in the midst of trouble you preserve my life'. He is confident that whatever the challenge 'the Lord will fulfil his purpose' for him.

We too have that assurance as 'your love, O Lord endures forever'.

Every blessing,

Pam

Lord, I come before Your throne of grace;
I find rest in Your presence
And fulness of joy.
In worship and wonder
I behold Your face,
Singing what a faithful God have I.

What a faithful God have I,
What a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
Faithful in every way.

Lord of mercy, You have heard my cry;
Through the storm You're the beacon,
My song in the night.
In the shelter of Your wings,
Hear my heart's reply,
Singing what a faithful God have I.

Lord all sovereign, granting peace from heaven,
Let me comfort those who suffer
With the comfort You have given.
I will tell of Your great love for as long as I live,
Singing what a faithful God have I.

