

Hymn [StF 465 / H&P 437](#) **Guide me oh thou great Jehovah**

Prayers of intercession and Lords Prayer.

Born from the renewing and life giving water, we pray to you, creator God, for your world, which human hands have seized and scarred. Give us your eyes to see its beauty, your love to care and your courage to take action against what we have done to your planet.

Born from the cleansing and life giving water, we pray to you, saving God, for your church which seeks to do your will but is diverted by our thoughts, by own agendas, by closing the door on letting the spirit work amongst us. Give us your eyes to see your visions and beauty, your love to care and your courage to take action.

Born from the life giving waters, we pray to you, redeemer God, for all people, that we may work together for the good of all regardless of colour, creed or conviction. We give thanks to all those in the past year, our key workers, our doctors and nurses and care staff, who have given of themselves to help us.

We remember all those in education and retail, the neighbours and the stranger who helped support and care others. Give us your eyes to see the beauty of your people, your love to care and your courage to take action.

Born from the healing waters, we pray to you, comforting God, for those who are distressed or discouraged. We pray to you, resurrection God, for those who are ill (add names) or those who now rest in glory Give us your eyes to remember their beauty, your love to care and your courage to take action.

Let us join together in the Lords Prayer: **Our Father... Amen**

Closing Hymn [StF 345 / H&P 216](#) **And can it be**

May the grace and love of God uphold you in the week ahead.

Our worship sheet was provided by the Durham & Deerness Valley Circuit

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Darlington District Worship at Home Sunday 24th January 2021

Call to worship – please read or listen to the song **In Christ Alone** [StF 351](#)

Prayers of adoration and confession

Almighty God, You hold all things together,
From the smallest seed to the largest tree,
From each microscopic species to the fiercest lion,
From the depths of the oceans to the great expanse of the universe.

Thank you for the beauty around us,
Thank you for the complexity of life within us,
Thank you for growth, for renewal, for breath.

You sustain the whole earth, bringing food and nourishment from the soil.
You have showered the land with streams of water.
You have warmed our lives with the heat of the sun
And blessed our dwellings with rain.

Thank you for all this abundant, incredible beauty and intricate life
And more than this, you have paid the price for the sins of man.
You have laid out a path straight into your heart.
You have adopted us as children through Jesus Christ inviting us to call you Abba, Father. Thank you. I lift your name on high, I sing your praises,

I am sorry when I get so carried away with the busyness of each day,
never stopping to dwell in your love.
I am sorry when I allow the stresses and demands of work or family to
erode and wear away my hope.
I am sorry when I'm caught up in conflict and frustration,
when I harbour resentment, instead of giving out forgiveness.
I'm sorry when I seek to be fulfilled by food, drink or entertainment,
Yet fail to feast on your truth.
I'm sorry when I desire the wrong things, blinded by the media, and forget
to engage with the real treasures of love and justice.
You are all love, all hope, all forgiveness, all truth and all I really need.
Amen.

Hymn StF 82 **How great thou art**

Bible reading Psalm 23

Hymn StF 481 or StF 480 / H&P 44 **The Lord's my shepherd**



Reflection on the 23rd Psalm

The Lord cares for and watches over me, and provides all that I need. He is my Caretaker, Shepherd, Overseer, God, Father, Provider and Giver of all things.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (v2)

The Lord brings me rest, peace and refreshment. He helps me to be still in His presence so that He can bring peace and refreshment to my soul. The Lord provides strength for my weary heart and enables me to walk forward on my journey.

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (v3)

The Lord guides me into righteousness so that my life will glorify Him. The Lord has given me the necessary tools to live a Godly life. I have His Word and the Holy Spirit who is my teacher.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; (4a)

The Lord is close to me in the lowest of times, and I need not fear. Even though I may walk through dark times, I trust that God is with me even there. It is in those times where I press into Him, spending more time in His presence, letting Him love on me. When I am close to him, all the worldly cares fall off.

your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (4b)

The Lord's authority over my life brings protection and comfort. As long as I am walking in the ways of the Lord, his authority and protection abide with me. When I choose to step outside of His will, then He may remove that authority and protection for a season, but only to draw me back to Him.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; (5a)

The Lord provides a feast for me, even in the presence of my enemies. I will have trials, but if I feast on His word, and learn to be still in His presence, it makes walking through those times much easier. I want to feast on His word

you anoint my head with oil; (5b)

The Lord anoints me and sets me apart for service to Him. I was reminded of Jesus and how he was anointed for burial. When I gave my life to Christ, I became dead to my old nature, and alive again in Him. My old nature has been buried with Christ, and my new nature has been made alive by the anointing and power of Jesus Christ.

my cup overflows. (5c)

The Lord provides abundant blessings to me, too many to count! My cup is always full. I often don't realise it, and may look at life as though my cup is half empty. I have so much to be thankful for. He has blessed me abundantly.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, (6a)

The Lord's goodness and unfailing love pursue me all of my life. This is by far my favourite verse. I picture myself running down the street, being closely followed by goodness and unfailing love. What does that look like? Oh that Jesus would come and overtake me with His love!

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (6b)

The Lord provides a place for me to dwell with him forever! The best part is, I get to live with God forever.

Thanks be to God

Take some time to think about this passage whilst you listen to a piece of quiet music (e.g. I come to the garden alone, available on the internet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8TeYfhudko>)