

27 September 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

### **A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Gathered in God's Presence**

Psalm 95: the most used psalm in Anglican corporate worship – read it reflectively. We encourage one another when we gather as Church to speak to God and to let Him speak to us

#### 1. Praise God (v.1-7a)

Only when we grasp Who the Lord is are we inwardly moved to worship.

- ❖ He is the Great God (v.3) – exalted over all: He made the universe, He controls the universe: from the highest mountain to the deepest sea (v.4,5). So sing joyfully, shout loudly, come thankfully: come with music and song to praise Him (v.1,2).
- ❖ He is our God (v.6 7a) – although far above us in His greatness, He is graciously close to us: He is our Shepherd; we the sheep in His hand (the place of care, protection and security). So come in reverence and awe: bow down and kneel in worship. Both exuberant praise and reverent humility mark our worship. But lips open to sing His praise, must have ears open to hear His Word.

#### 2. Listen to God (v. 7b-11)

Jesus said His sheep know their Shepherd's voice (John 10:2-4, 27). Today is the day to listen and obey because today God is speaking.

Warning: Israel failed to listen to God's voice: they grumbled, complained, did not believe, and did not obey (Numbers 20; Exodus 17). Sin matters and has consequences – they failed to enter God's rest.

At Morning Prayer, Psalm 95 is sung immediately before the Bible readings: we exhort one another to prepare our hearts to listen to God's voice speaking to us in His Word. Listen to His voice as you read His Word today.

#### **Prayer**

Lord, You are worthy of our wholehearted praise and adoration, but so often my response to You is inadequate. I need Your grace to accept my faltering praise through the merits of Jesus my Saviour. Help me to open my heart to You today, to listen to Your voice, to respond to You, and in You find rest. Amen.

#### **Remember**

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another. St James is open for Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10am, or I am willing to visit you at home: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,  
Robert