

Edinburgh: The New Town Church of Scotland
Order of Service
25th August 2024

Call to Worship: **Psalm 84**

LEADER O LORD God, how happy are they who dwell in your house!

RESPONSE they will always be praising you.

L For the LORD God is both sun and shield;

R he will give grace and glory;

L No good thing will the LORD withhold

R from those who walk with integrity.

L O Lord of hosts,

R happy are they who put their trust in you!

Hymn 18 The earth belongs to God alone

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you

and also with you

(Let us share peace with one another)

Prayer

Hymn 84 Now Israel may say

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel chapter 34 verses 1-6 and 11-15

The word of the Lord came to me: **2** Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? **3** You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. **4** You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. **5** So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. **6** My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. **12** As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **13** I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. **14** I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. **15** I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

Gospel Reading: John chapter 10, verses 1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Hymn 355 You Lord are both Lamb and shepherd

Sermon: The Annals of the Parish: God unwelcome in the community.

God Welcomes All 9 All creation sings God’s greatness

Prayers of the People

Hymn 511 Your hand O God has guided

Blessing

Worship Leader: Rev Alistair Keil

Scripture Reader: Barbara Finlayson

Prayers of the people: Katie McNeill

Organist/pianist: David Stewart

Sources:

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version Anglicised unless otherwise stated.

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition unless otherwise stated

God Welcomes All, Supplement to CH4

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Communion Responses

The Lord be with you... **and also with you**

Lift up your hearts... **we lift them up to the Lord**

Let us thank God... **it is good and right to do this always**

Let us worship God with all the faithful and all who have gone before us in the faith,
with all the heavenly host in saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world.... **have mercy upon us**

Jesus, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world... **have mercy upon us**

Jesus, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world... **grant us your peace**