

# PSALMS OF HOPE

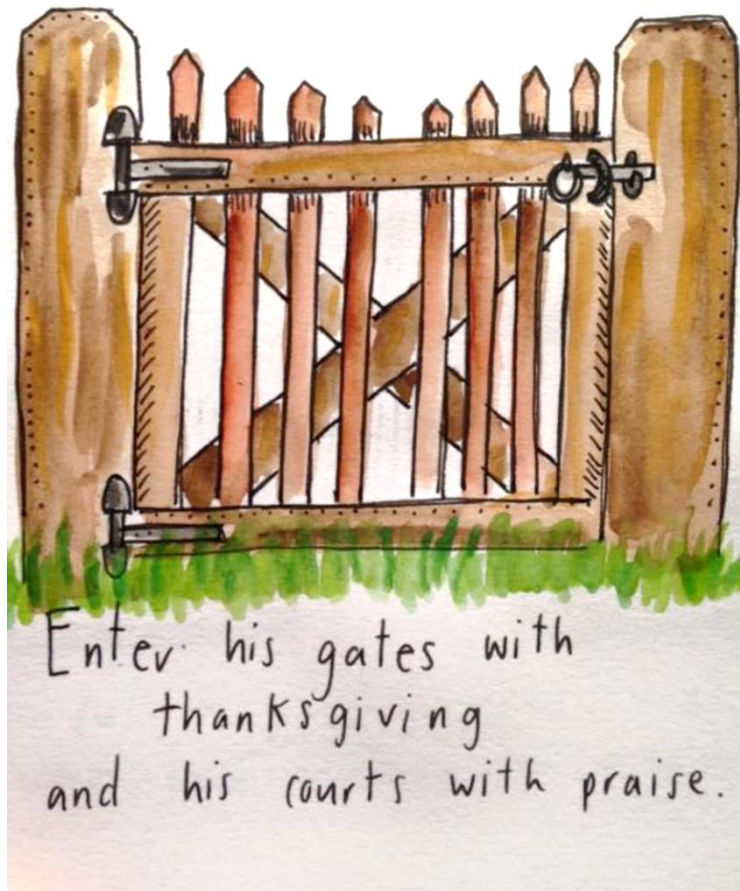
@UnitedChurchFerndown

## United Church Ferndown's 2023 Lent Programme

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Reflection #8

### WHO KNOWS BEST?



#### Pray:

Lord, let everything I do in this season of Lent come from You, be inspired by You. I long to be closer to You. I long to receive the hope that You offer. Help me to remember that nothing is more important than You in my life. Help me to rely on You for help. I want to walk in your footsteps, Jesus. I confess that I have often felt I knew better and ignored Your presence. Heal me, Lord, and help me to find You in the darkness of my life. Let me reach out and feel your hand and love there to guide me. Speak to me in this moment, Lord God. **Amen.**

**Introduction:**

I was out walking the dog when I stumbled across some crocuses and daffodils. In that moment it made me smile, made me smile because they were beautiful, made me smile because the sun was shining. I turned the corner and Digger (our hairy and excitable cockapoo!) ran past me – he ran towards the birds on the ground and decided that they should all be together – he rounded them up! Well, I say he rounded them up, what I mean is, he tried rounding them up. I saw from the look on Digger's face that rounding up birds that obviously don't want to be together is very difficult! They scatter, they fly away and most annoyingly didn't go where Digger wanted them to. This made me smile.

On my stroll, I realised just how thankful I am to God. You see – I want to be a sheep! Unlike Digger, when a shepherd rounds up their sheep, they make sure that they are all together, that they are safe and that they don't get lost. The sheep have to trust the shepherd that they are taking them in the right direction and looking after them. I want to be a sheep! You see Jesus was sent to us, and called the good shepherd. We can be his sheep. He wants to round us up and look out for us, lead us in the right direction. I want to be a sheep!

And the reason I smile? The reason the crocuses made me happy, the daffodils made me skip a little? Well, they were all created by our loving God. How could I not want to praise him in that moment?

**Read:****Psalm 100:3-4 (NIV)**

Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
And his courts with praise;  
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

**Psalm 79: 13 (NIV)**

Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,  
will praise you forever;  
from generation to generation we will proclaim your praise.

**Consider:**

God wants us to be in his pasture with him. He wants to look after us, care for us as only a shepherd can look after his sheep. Do you want to be a sheep? Are you a sheep? If the answer is yes, then consider just how much we truly can praise God for. Life is tough and sometimes we try to get away, like the birds from Digger. Let's embrace those gates that we enter, as a safe place, and be thankful. Today try to focus on the good, the praises we can send to God – let's enter his gates with thanksgiving today.

**Pray:**

Thank God for wanting to be your shepherd, for wanting us in his flock. Praise God for the great things we have and be thankful.

**Try it out:**

Do you want to be a sheep? Try talking to God, allow the good shepherd to be your guide today.