

Start here!

Find your favourite song on the CD and sing, sing, sing!

For the next few weeks we're thinking about this

Did you know that there's a big collection of songs in the bible, as big a collection as any pop star has made, they're called the Psalms

This week's Psalm...

...the really famous one, Psalm 23, can you find it in a bible and read it out? It's only 6 verses long.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Psalm 23:6

What's the longest book you've ever read? Can you remember how many chapters it had? Right in the middle of the bible is the book of Psalms, and it has got 150 chapters! Some of the verses in Psalms are quoted in the New testament, can you remember the memory verse from Palm Sunday? Matthew 21:9 is taken from Psalm 118:26. We've recently thought about everything that happened in Easter week, when Jesus and the disciples had the last supper together the bible tells us they sang a hymn, this would have been one of the psalms. Jesus even quotes one of them when he was on the cross – Psalm 22:1 and

Matthew 27:46 (can you find all of those verses in your bible?).

Today we've read Psalm 23, probably the most well known Psalm there is. The bible tells us it was written by King David; a lot of the psalms, but not all, were written by him. David had a lot of things going on in his life, some of it was great (do you remember the story of him killing Goliath?) and some of it wasn't very good at all (things that he would get sent to prison for today, even though he was the king!).

Writing these songs to God seemed to be his way of telling God how he felt, also they were a way of him finding out what God was saying to him. When you read Psalm 23 do you think that David was experiencing good things or hard things in life? It could have been either couldn't it, the pictures he describes could have been God's way of helping him deal with something difficult, or it could have been an image of just how good life was living with God at that moment.

Which of the pictures in the psalm do you like the best? Walking beside a beautiful river? Sitting in front of a big posh meal? What do you think David intended us to think about God when he wrote this Psalm?



KEEP CALM AND GET YOUR CRAFT ON

Have a go at today's craft. When you're done can you get a responsible adult to post a picture to the church facebook page?



Find one of the other songs on the CD, have fun singing it and then work out what the words mean for you



Father God, thank you that you have inspired so many people to write great words about you, Thank you that they were honest about how they felt and showed us how great you are in helping us. Amen



Can you remember verse 6 and tell someone what it is before you go to bed tonight?

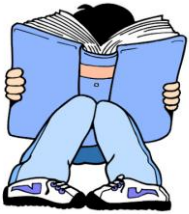
Psst!

The middle of the bible can be found in the book of Psalms, can you find Psalm 103, verse 1?

The BIG

Q

What do you know about Psalms?



Today the whole church is looking at Psalm 23, have a read of it now. What do you think of the imagery that it uses? Can you pick one image and explain it to somebody? For example, why would they write “He makes me lie down in green pastures”?

Can you find a couple of others to explain? Are these all good things?

On the following page there’s another version of the psalm, does this help you understand it in a different way?

In a couple of weeks we’re all going to have a go at writing our own psalm. Now, don’t panic! We’re going to work through some steps to help us and we’re going to use language that makes sense to us in 2020.

First we need to understand that there are different types of psalms, and that is what we’re going to do today...



Simple songs of praise

- Psalm 93
- Psalm 148

What God has done / who he is

- Psalm 8
- Psalm 111
- Psalm 139

What God will do / my request for him to do something for me

- Psalm 37
- Psalm 91

A combination!

- Psalm 40
- Psalm 104

Have a read through some of these psalms, does the title of the group they’re in make sense?

Which group would you put psalm 23 in?

Find another psalm and work out which group you’d add it to.

Psalm aren’t just for the good times, often they were written when life was really tough, read psalm 6 or psalm 55 to see the difference!

- David wrote at least 75 psalms. Seventy-three bear his name.
- In addition to David, at least six other authors contributed to the book of Psalms, including Moses (Psalm 90), Solomon (Psalm 72 and 127), Asaph (12 psalms), the “sons of Korah” (11 psalms), and Ethan the Ezrahite (Psalm 89).
- Psalm 25, 34, 37, 111, 112 and 145 are examples of acrostic Hebrew poetry. In these six psalms, the first letter of each line, verse or stanza begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The acrostic nature isn’t readily apparent in English translations. A good hint is the 22 verses corresponding to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Psalm 90 may be the oldest Psalm, written by Moses around 1450 B.C.. About 1,000 years later, the last of the Psalms (including 137) were written.
- The key word in the Psalms is “praise” and appears 211 times compared with 129 occurrences in all the rest of Scripture combined.
- During the Jewish Passover celebration, it became customary to recite Psalm 136 and Psalms 113-118. Jesus may well have recited these at the Last Supper.

Psst!

If there’s too many to read through in one Sunday morning, why not read one a day for the next week?

The Twenty Third Psalm

A Native-American Indian Version

The GREAT FATHER above a SHEPHERD CHIEF is.

I am His and with Him I want not.

He throws out to me a rope

and the name of the rope is love

and He draws me to where the grass is green

and the water is not dangerous,

and I eat and lie down and am satisfied.

Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down

but He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road.

His name is WONDERFUL.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long long time,

He will draw me into a valley.

It is dark there, but I'll be afraid not,

for it is between those mountains

that the SHEPHERD CHIEF will meet me

and the hunger that I have in my heart all through life will be satisfied.

Sometimes he makes the love rope into a whip,

but afterwards He gives a staff to lean upon.

He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods.

He put His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone.

My cup he fills till it runs over.

What I tell is true.

I lie not.

These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life and after;

and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Teepee and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF forever.