

spill the beans

worship and learning resources for all ages

issue 55

pentecost 1-11

15 june to 24 august 2025

FAITH & CULTURE

A resource with a Scottish flavour for
Worship Leaders, Sunday Schools,
Junior Churches and Youth Leaders.

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introduction

Welcome to the penultimate in a series of eight issues of Spill the Beans through which we are taking an alternative journey through the Scripture over a two year period. Having spent the previous year with The Women's Lectionary, and not at the beginning point of either the Revised Common Lectionary or the Narrative Lectionary, this has been an opportunity for thinking about a different way to engage the Scripture with a contemporary setting.

Word And World Lectionary

Members of the Spill the Beans Resource Team took time out to consider the way forward and with enthusiasm embarked on creating our own two year lectionary. We had past experience with our "Path Less Travelled" lectionary in 2018-19 which was inspired by user feedback.

This time we decided to deliberately and methodically to engage Word and World using the device of special days and themes. For instance, using United Nations' focus days, or saints days, or particular festivals. We have shaped these into short thematic series. We would encourage engagement both with the Scriptural texts for each day and to use this as an opportunity for your congregation to engage with some of the international themes that arise.

This is a different approach for us and we hope it will be inspiring to you in your worship as we pray it will be for us as we lead worship in our own settings.

We have decided to keep the format for the layout of the issues as we have used in the past year, and to encourage the development of intergenerational worship.

Intergenerational Worship

Spill the Beans has always been rooted in the power of story telling. Story binds generations together. In that shared bond of story lies the creative space for building relationships between generations. Using different ways to engage with the story recognises the variety amongst us all: some learn by listening, others by doing, others by creating. All are valuable and a part of our shared worship of God.

We are encouraging you to experiment as we will be doing with ways to worship intergenerationally in an authentic and inclusive manner. To that end we are still providing a rich variety of resources but grouped by how they help us **'tell the story'**, **'explore the story'**, and **'live the story'**. Mix and match, rewrite, contextualise for your own setting, try something different, and have fun with it! Please do give us feedback.

There are many resources online to help think more deeply about intergenerational worship. A simple but very helpful summary is provided by the Methodist Church, copied below.

Intergenerational worship IS about:

- **building relationships**—offering a key time for people to get to know each other better and build a sense of connection;
- **a time of worship and learning that is offered in a simplified and participatory way**—simple does not mean shallow; rather it enables everyone to contribute and receive in a meaningful and appropriate way;
- **providing an inclusive experience and a sense of belonging**—helping everyone of all abilities to feel part of the body of Christ, whatever their experience;
- **being a bridge**—not only between ages but also for those who are exploring what being part of a church means. This relaxed service style can provide a comfortable place for some to discover more about Christianity;
- **encouragement, nurture and inclusiveness**—it is a means by which faith can grow and, in turn, inform life-making or life-changing decisions;
- **exploring vocation**—an opportunity to discover and develop gifts and calling.

Intergenerational worship is NOT about:

- limiting the richness of resources used;
- oversimplifying the message or adding a children's talk into the 'usual' service;
- unstructured and chaotic worship;
- children having token responsibilities for roles and participation;
- limiting potential to explore faith and discipleship together;
- nuclear families exclusively worshipping together.

Information

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Sleepless Nights Publications

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the team

If you would like to find out how you could be part of the team, please contact either Roddy or Peter (see previous page).

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Key to Abbreviations

In the worship ideas section the following abbreviations may be used to indicate different sources of worship music:

- | | |
|------|---|
| ATAS | All the Assembly Songs You'll Ever Need |
| CG | Common Ground |
| CH4 | Church Hymnary, 4th Edition |
| GTG | Glory To God: The Presbyterian Hymnal |
| GWA | God Welcomes All (Supplement to CH4) |
| JP | Junior Praise |
| MP | Complete Mission Praise |
| STF | Singing The Faith |
| WGP | Wild Goose Publications |



our next plans...

Journeying With The Doctor

We still have two issues to complete our Word and World two year lectionary cycle, this one and Issue 56. It has been a cycle that the Spill the Beans Resource Team have enjoyed putting together and using in our own churches and we hope that it has been stimulating in your own settings too.

Below you will find the outline for this and the next issue.

What to do next? The team have given this considerable thought and have decided that we would spend a whole year in one of the gospels, working our way through the whole of the text. For this we have chosen Luke's gospel. In addition to the primary texts from the gospel we also have support texts.

It is not possible just to work our way through the gospel chronologically, as there are inevitably some diversions at different points in the year to align with the liturgical calendar. So we have tried to approach this a little differently with some major themes that we will explore: the beginning birth narrative, the road to Golgotha, Holy Week and the Passion, and finally Jesus' life and ministry. We are going to be reading every verse of the gospel during the year.



And we are not going to stop there... we are soon to start planning to devise a second year for this Lukan Lectionary when the primary focus will be on The Acts of the Apostles, Luke's sequel.

The plan for the first year of this Lukan Lectionary is shown on the opposite page so that you can see the direction we are headed, and we will add the second year to this table in subsequent issues.

Come join us on this journey with the good Doctor Luke.

Date	Liturgical	Theme	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
WORD AND WORLD					
15 Jun 25	Pentecost 1	Thankful and Grateful	Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-11	Father's Day, National Beer Day
22 Jun 25	Pentecost 2		Psalm 118	1 Thessalonians 5:12-24	International Picnic Day (18 Jun)
29 Jun 25	Pentecost 3		Psalm 145	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Death of George MacLeod (27 Jun 1991)
6 Jul 25	Pentecost 4		1 Chronicles 16:8-36	Romans 11:33-36	Thank You Day
13 Jul 25	Pentecost 5	Crossroads of Culture and Faith	Psalm 95	Luke 2:22-32	Music, St Swithin
20 Jul 25	Pentecost 6		2 Chronicles 1:1,7-13	Luke 3:7-18	Politics, St Thenew
27 Jul 25	Pentecost 7		Exodus 31:1-11	Luke 6:43-45	Art
3 Aug 25	Pentecost 8		2 Samuel 12:1-9	Luke 9:1-6	Literature
10 Aug 25	Pentecost 9		Song of Songs 2:8-17	Luke 12:49-53	Poetry
17 Aug 25	Pentecost 10		1 Kings 4:29-34	Luke 17:11-19	Science
24 Aug 25	Pentecost 11		1 Samuel 8:1-21	Luke 20:20-26	Civic Space, death of George Matheson (28 Aug 1906)
31 Aug 25	Pentecost 12	Prayer	Jeremiah 20:7-18	1 Samuel 1:1-18	Complaint
7 Sept 25	Pentecost 13		Luke 10:1-9,17-21	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Thanksgiving
14 Sep 25	Pentecost 14		Genesis 32:3-21	Luke 18:1-18	Protection
21 Sep 25	Pentecost 15		John 17:10-26	Luke 2:36-38	Intercession
28 Sep 25	Pentecost 16		2 Samuel 12:15b-23	Psalm 98	Unanswered
5 Oct 25	Pentecost 17	Reforming Our Faith	Psalm 96:1-9	1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 14:26	Songs and Liturgy
12 Oct 25	Pentecost 18		Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	Matthew 22:34-39	Times and Priorities
19 Oct 25	Pentecost 19		Joshua 10:36-43	2 Timothy 3:14-17	Lectionaries
26 Oct 25	Pentecost 20		Exodus 3:1-10	Ephesians 3:14-20	Experiences of God, Reformation Day (31 Oct)
2 Nov 25	Pentecost 21	Christ on the Edge	Mark 12:41-44	Deuteronomy 24:17-22	All Souls Day
9 Nov 25	Pentecost 22		Matthew 5:38-44	Genesis 22:1-14	Remembrance Sunday
16 Nov 25	Pentecost 23		Luke 10:25-37	Deuteronomy 10:17-22	Home Made Bread Day (17 Nov), St Margaret of Scotland
23 Nov 25	Reign of Christ		Mark 10:17-21	Luke 12:13-21	Stir Up Day, death of James Hogg (21 Nov 1835)

Note that the double-lined breaks in the table delineate between issues.

Date	Liturgical	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
LUKAN LECTIONARY YEAR 1: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE				
The Beginning				
30 Nov 25	Advent 1	Luke 1:1-4	Joshua 22:4-6	The Setup; The Lord's Commandment
7 Dec 25	Advent 2	Luke 1:5-38	Isaiah 9:2-7	Births foretold; People walking in darkness
14 Dec 25	Advent 3	Luke 1:39-56	Psalms 146	The Magnificat; Praise for God's help
21 Dec 25	Advent 4	Luke 1:57-80	Isaiah 40:1-9	John the Baptist's birth; God's people are comforted
25 Dec 25	Christmas Day	Luke 2:1-20	Micah 5:2-5	Jesus' birth; Ruler from Bethlehem
28 Dec 25	Christmas 1	Luke 2:21-40	1 Samuel 1:19-28	Jesus presented; Samuel's dedication
4 Jan 26	Christmas 2	Luke 2:41-52	1 Samuel 2:18-21	Jesus as a boy; Samuel growing up in God's presence
The Road To Golgotha				
11 Jan 26	Epiphany 1	Luke 19:45-20:8	Proverbs 26:4-5	Jesus back in the Temple; Fools and folly
18 Jan 26	Epiphany 2	Luke 17:22-37	Genesis 19:15-29	Jesus foretells death/resurrection; Sodom & Gomorrah
25 Jan 26	Epiphany 3	Luke 6:1-11; 13:10-17	Exodus 34:21	Jesus breaking Sabbath taboos; Sabbath renewal
1 Feb 26	Epiphany 4	Luke 11:14-23	Acts 28:23-28	Jesus causing division; Paul preaching in Rome
8 Feb 26	Epiphany 5	Luke 11:29-54	Jonah 3:1-10	Signs from Jonah with Jesus' critique; Nineveh conversion
15 Feb 26	Transfiguration	Luke 9:21-36,44-45	Exodus 34:29-35	Jesus foretells and transfiguration; Moses beams
22 Feb 26	Lent 1	Luke 12:49-56	Micah 7:1-7	Households divided and repentance; People corrupted
1 Mar 26	Lent 2	Luke 15:1-10	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Parables of the shepherd/woman; The true shepherd
8 Mar 26	Lent 3	Luke 18:31-34	Luke 13:1-9; 21:29-33	Third foretelling of death/resurrection; On fig trees
15 Mar 26	Lent 4	Luke 20:9-19	Isaiah 5:1-7	Parable of the vineyard; Song of the unfruitful vineyard
22 Mar 26	Lent 5	Luke 20:20-26	Acts 17:1-9	Taxes and authority; Uproar in Thessalonica
29 Mar 26	Palms/Passion	Luke 19:28-44	Zechariah 9:8-12	Entrance to Jerusalem; A coming ruler
The Passion (Holy Week)				
30 Mar 26	Monday	Luke 20:27-21:4	Deuteronomy 25:5-10	Questions about resurrection and widow's mite; Levirate marriage
31 Mar 26	Tuesday	Luke 21:5-28	Revelation 6:1-17	Mini-apocalypse; The seven seals
1 Apr 26	Wednesday	Luke 21:34-22:6	John 20:45-53	Be on your guard and Judas' plans; Plotting amongst elites
2 Apr 26	Maundy Thursday	Luke 22:7-30	Deuteronomy 16:1-8	Preparation of Passover, institution, disputes; Passover legislated
3 Apr 26	Good Friday	Luke 23:1-49	Psalms 31:3-5,9-14	Execution; Prayer for deliverance
4 Apr 26	Holy Saturday	Luke 23:50-56	2 Chronicles 16:13-14	Burial of Jesus; Example of burial (Asa)
5 Apr 26	Easter Day	Luke 24:1-12	Psalms 126	At the tomb; Song of joy
12 Apr 26	Easter 2	Luke 24:13-35	1 Corinthians 10:12-17	Road to Emmaus; Partake of the one bread
The Ministry of Jesus				
19 Apr 26	Easter 3	Luke 3:1-22(23-38)	Isaiah 42:1-9	John with Jesus' baptism; The Servant and light to the nations
26 Apr 26	Easter 4	Luke 4:1-15	Deuteronomy 8:1-6	Jesus' temptation; Lessons from 40 years in the wilderness
3 May 26	Easter 5	Luke 4:14-30	1 Kings 17:8-16	Jesus preaching in the synagogue; Elijah and widow of Zarephath
10 May 26	Easter 6	Luke 4:31-44	2 Corinthians 5:11-15	Jesus healing and teaching; Ministry of reconciliation
17 May 26	Easter 7	Luke 5:1-11,27-28; 6:12-17	Acts 6:1-7	Jesus calling disciples; The community leadership grows
24 May 26	Pentecost	Luke 5:12-16	Acts 2:1-11	Jesus heals a leper; Pentecost spirit visits
31 May 26	Pentecost 1 (Trinity)	Luke 5:17-26	Leviticus 24:10-16	Healing of paralysed man; An example of blasphemy punished
7 Jun 26	Pentecost 2	Luke 5:29-39	Isaiah 58:3-9a	Fasting / old and new; On true fasting
14 Jun 26	Pentecost 3	Luke 6:17-31	Psalms 63	Blessings and woes; Comfort in God's presence
21 Jun 26	Pentecost 4	Luke 6:27-42	Acts 9:9-20	Do not judge / speck and plank; Saul/Paul transformed
28 Jun 26	Pentecost 5	Luke 6:43-49	James 1:2-11,22-25	Good/bad fruit/foundations; Poverty and riches, be a doer
5 Jul 26	Pentecost 6	Luke 7:1-23	Acts 10:1-35	Healing of centurion, raising of widow's son; Peter and centurion
12 Jul 26	Pentecost 7	Luke 7:24-50; 8:1-4	Exodus 30:17-21	Jesus deals with question, anointing; The bronze basin
19 Jul 26	Pentecost 8	Luke 8:4-21	Galatians 5:22-26	Parable of sower and explanation; Fruit of the Spirit
26 Jul 26	Pentecost 9	Luke 8:22-56	Psalms 107:23-32	Commanding the waters / healings; The Lord's control over chaos
2 Aug 26	Pentecost 10	Luke 9:1-20	Numbers 11:21-23	Jesus teaching and feeding multitude; Moses doubts God's power
9 Aug 26	Pentecost 11	Luke 9:37-50	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Faithless and perverse generation; A life pleasing to God
16 Aug 26	Pentecost 12	Luke 9:51-10:24	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Jesus sets face to Jerusalem, mission of 70; Pairing up
23 Aug 26	Pentecost 13	Luke 10:25-42	Leviticus 19:11-18	Parable of Good Samaritan and Mary & Martha; Moral holiness
30 Aug 26	Pentecost 14	Luke 11:1-13,24-28,33-36	Philippians 4:4-8	Jesus praying, admired, do not hide your light; Exhortations
6 Sep 26	Pentecost 15	Luke 12:1-34	1 Corinthians 5:6-8	Crowds trampling to hear Jesus; On yeast
13 Sep 26	Pentecost 16	Luke 12:35-48,57-59	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Watchfulness and preparation; Prepared for the day of the Lord
20 Sep 26	Pentecost 17	Luke 13:10-35	Acts 8:14-24	Healing and words about the Kingdom; Buying your way to blessing
27 Sep 26	Pentecost 18	Luke 14:1-24	Proverbs 25:6-7	Healing, parables of humility; Do not put yourself forward
4 Oct 26	Pentecost 19	Luke 14:25-35	Colossians 4:2-6	Cost of discipleship; Let your speech be gracious
11 Oct 26	Pentecost 20	Luke 15:11-16:13	Genesis 27:30-38	Parable of prodigal / dishonest manager; Esau's lost blessing
18 Oct 26	Pentecost 21	Luke 16:14-31	Psalms 19	Rich man and Lazarus, the Law and the Kingdom; Perfect Law
25 Oct 26	Pentecost 22	Luke 17:1-21	Leviticus 13:45-46	Sayings, cleansing of lepers, coming Kingdom; Unclean
1 Nov 26	Pentecost 23	Luke 18:1-30	Hebrews 13:1-8	Unjust judge, persistent widow, rich young ruler; Contentment
8 Nov 26	Pentecost 24	Luke 18:35-19:10	Numbers 5:5-7	Blind beggar, Zacchaeus; Restitution
15 Nov 26	Pentecost 25	Luke 19:11-27	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Parable of the ten pounds; Servants and stewards
22 Nov 26	Reign of Christ	Luke 24:36-53	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Jesus' commission of disciples; The good news flows on

a joyful noise

Pentecost 1

Sunday 15 June 2025

Theme

Thankful and Grateful

Word

Psalms 100

Romans 5:1-11

World

National Beer Day

Father's Day

tell the story

Bible Notes

What is the most joyful noise you can imagine? For your writer, the sound that immediately comes to mind is of a baby laughing. If stumbling over a video on social media of a baby giggling away it is almost impossible not to smile and laugh along, it is an infectious joy, and one that stimulates carefree memories if one has had the responsibility of raising children. Sometimes it was the simplest things that triggered the outpouring of joyous chuckles, and once the tap was flowing it was an equal joy to try to keep stimulating that laughter – a feedback loop of joy, laughter and togetherness. Then the terrible twos and teenage years... sometimes a different story.

Joy can be found in other noises too. Music can be a powerful expression of joy. Think of the exuberance of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, or of the bouncy "Praise, Joy & Gladness" from Karl Jenkins' Miserere: Songs of Mercy and Redemption, or Pharell Williams singing "Happy", or Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now", you'll be "Walking on Sunshine" (Katrina and the Waves) before you know it!

We begin a series this week focussing on thankfulness and gratefulness, using the Psalms as our primary texts. We begin appropriately with Psalm 100, a song of introduction. In our Scottish tradition this Psalm is best known through its form from The Scottish Psalter, "All people that on earth do dwell" song to the tune OLD

100TH. And, to our great shame, many will be the times that "sing to the Lord with cheerful voice" has been sung with dour dedication, a deathly dirge. Fred Dunn's vivacious "Jubilate, everybody" can be the antidote and is just a few pages further in the Church Hymnary (4th edition).

James L Mays notes that Psalm 100 contains two forms of introduction: liturgical and theological. It is a hymn to bring people into the presence of God, it moves one into the space in which we can worship (a physical space, for sure, but perhaps also mentally), and that very act of movement providing



the first steps of worship itself. Secondly, it serves theologically to lay out the very nature and being of worship: what worship is.

Psalm 100 invites us into seven different ways to worship God: to make a joyful noise, to worship with gladness, to come, to gain knowledge, to enter into God's presence, to give thanks, and to offer blessing. All this we, as worshippers, do for we are God's creatures and in response to God's goodness and steadfast love.

There is a sense of the whole body being involved in worship. It must be a total commitment; it cannot be partial or qualified. Such is a true sense of thankfulness and gratefulness, it is without reserve. The image of worshippers going up as pilgrims to Mount Zion is one of complete commitment, full of joyous song and expectation.

It is National Beer Day today, links to Father's Day are perhaps coincidental? What connections can be made here?

What may not be well known is that the great reformer, Martin Luther, was a keen beer drinker, indeed his wife, Katherina, was a keen brewer. There is a fascinating side-story to the reformation which involves a transformation of beers too, with Luther advocating for hops. This was a reaction to the abbess Hildegard who had some centuries before pronounced that hops were not good for you, making "the soul of a man sad and weigh[ing] down his inner organs". The Catholic Church, of course, had a huge hand in beer production at the time of the reformation. So, what better way for a reformer to stick it to one of the wealth centres of the Church than by advocating the more soporific hop-based beers. Luther is quoted as saying: "Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!"

This all contrasts with Paul's unpacking in Romans 5 of his understanding of justification by faith. The intent, surely, of Paul was to give his readers some knowledge and insight through which they could better express their gratitude and thankfulness to God in worship. In some parts of the Church that freedom sometimes gets mixed up with piety and formalisations by which God's compassion and mercy end up restricted and qualified, a shameful outcome that Paul, no doubt, would have lamented.

Story Retelling

After Pentecost

Two disciples take stock after Pentecost, their thoughts leading into Psalm 100.

Voice A: How did he know we would do what he'd asked us?

Voice B: Who? What?

Voice A: Jesus. How did he know we would wait for the Spirit? That we would not leave the city, but stay there and wait, like he told us to. How did he know we would do it?

Voice B: Umm... maybe he didn't know. He can't have known for sure. I mean, remember the state we were in...

Voice A: Exactly. What a mess. That's all he could have been sure of about me—I was a mess.

Voice B: I know. It's almost been too much, hasn't it? Even with everything as amazing as it was last week...

Voice A: I'm glad it's not just me then. I still feel a mess. Even after last week—all that drama at the festival, and Peter's big speech, and so many more people joining us. I had no idea it would be like that when the Spirit came! It's all a bit much, to take in...

Voice B: I keep thinking of the days we tramped around with him, trying to understand him, to imitate him, always falling short. And then, just falling apart, when we lost him.

Voice A: Not before he lost us...

Voice B: Yep. Where were we? Everything he'd tried to do, left in our hands? And where were we?

Voice A: And then he's here again, not lost and gone at all, but not staying, or not in the same way. What a lot to get your head around...

Voice B: Look at us now, though, here we are, we did do as he asked.

Voice A: Yes, we did. Somehow, we did, by the grace of God.

Voice B: That's the only way we do anything.

Voice A: Yes!

Voice B: So let's do as we're asked again, we know the words...

Voice A: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Voice B: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Voice A: Know that the Lord is God.

Voice B: It is God that made us, and we are his;

Voice A: we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture.

Voice B: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Voice A: Give thanks to God, bless his name.

Voice B: For the Lord is good;

Both: HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOR EVER

Voice B: and his faithfulness to all generations.

Discussion Starters

A good place to start today would be around the theme of what brings joy. Joy is a state of being. It is to know well-being, happiness, satisfaction. From there it is a small step towards thankfulness.

- What brings you joy?
- How often do you think you experience joy?
- What prevents you from experiencing joy in life?
- How would you describe the relationship between joy and thanksgiving?

Read together Psalm 100, use different voices for each of the stanzas. It is short enough that you could read it a few times, perhaps individually, then collectively, then in a sung version.

The Psalm was written to serve functionally to introduce people to worship, literally in the sense of being a song sung as one moved towards the place of worship (traditionally towards Mount Zion) and also to prepare people for what to expect and what to offer in worship.

- What do you do to prepare for worship?
- What practices or liturgies does your church use to prepare people for worship?
- How is music and song used within your worshipping community?

- What could be done better or differently to help people enter worship fully?

Read Romans 5:1-11 together. This may take some time as it is written in quite a dense style by Paul. You may want to work your way through it unpacking the meaning with each other at each stage. Try to approach this with a sense of seeking to explore what Paul was doing positively to help his readers approach God and understand what God was doing for them.

- How does Paul's writing in Romans compare to Psalm 100?
- What are the positive aspects of Paul's message?
- How inclusive/exclusive do you find Paul's thoughts here to be?
- How helpful do you find Paul's description of being 'justified by faith'?

National Beer Day or Beer Day Britain is an awareness day held each year on 15 June. For a Scottish publication, it is heartening that a heather ale was most likely the first beer consumed in Britain, brewed in Scotland, though beer made of hops came from the continent and the first recorded import was around 1362 from Amsterdam. The day is a chance to remember those whose livelihoods is dependent on beer production, from farmers to brewers.

If you want to follow up on what is mentioned in the Bible Notes about Martin Luther's advocacy for hoppy beers, this is a great summary: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/10/31/561117731/the-other-reformation-how-martin-luther-changed-our-beer-too>.



explore the story

Engaging The Text

You will need: an initial idea on how to express Psalm 100 to start people thinking, perhaps musical instruments or craft materials to create some.

Depending on how many people there are, divide everyone into groups and give each group a verse of Psalm 100. Invite them to reflect on their verse, trying to find a way to express it with movement and sound. It can be with instruments (homemade, if craft materials are available) or with voice or movement, either individually or together as a group. Invite them to rehearse their interpretation.

After the groups have had time to rehearse, ask each group, in verse order, to show their interpretation one after the other so that the psalm is read in order, with a group visually and audibly interpreting each part of the reading.

An alternate way of doing this would be for each group to be given the whole psalm to do, with the expression being done with visuals, such as paints and pens.

Make A Joyful Noise

You will need: paper cups, sticky tape, scissors, stickers (happy face and musical stickers would be appropriate), dried peas.

Give each person two paper cups and ask them to decorate the outside of these with the stickers. They should then place a handful of dried peas into one of the cups. Once this has been done, ask them to take the other cup and place it on top of the one containing the peas, making sure that the rims meet. The cups should then be secured in place with sticky tape. Other homemade instruments could also be made such as a 'guitar', by using an open box with elastic bands.

Discuss favourite songs and hymns and then read Psalm 100 verses 1 and 2. Talk about the ways songs and hymns are used to praise God and how we might encourage that attitude of joy and worship in our daily lives.

We Are His Flock

You will need: Digestive biscuits, mini marshmallows or hoop shaped cereal, icing sugar mixed to a spreadable consistency, raisins or chocolate drops, bowls, paper plates, knives, wet wipes or hand washing facilities.

Give those participating a digestive biscuit and paper plate. Ask them to spread the icing sugar onto one side of the biscuit and then to stick the marshmallows, hoops, raisins or chocolate drops onto the icing sugar, to form the fleece and features of a sheep.

Talk about Psalm 100 verse 3. In what ways is the image of the shepherd and sheep helpful to us today? Talk about being together as a flock.

Through The Gates With Thanksgiving

You will need: coloured paper, straws, A4 card, PVA glue, glue spreaders, scissors, felt tip pens.

Give each person two sheets of A4 card. Ask them to place one of the sheets, landscape wise onto the work surface and then to write 'Enter his gates with thanksgiving' along the top, either in one or two lines, using the felt tip pens. They should then be directed to draw a heart shape in the centre of the page. After this has been done, ask them to take the other piece of card, which they should fold it in half and draw an arch shape, with the top of arch landing on the central fold. They should then cut along the arch shape and down the central fold line: these will form the two sections of the gates. The participants should then fold the paper sections of the gate, about 2cm in, from the edge of each gate and then take the straws and cut them into lengths to fit onto the card to form the bars of the gates. Cover the card in glue up to the fold line and then attach the lengths of straws to fit in. Attach the gates to the base card by glueing from fold line to the edge of each gate and then stick it to the base card. Once the glue is dry the gates should open, to reveal the heart.

Talk about the doors and the gates those participating go through on a regular basis. Talk about Psalm 100 verse 4 and how those going through the gates to worship God, did so with an attitude of thanksgiving and praise. Talk about ways we can develop these attitudes in our daily lives.

Joyful Songs

You will need: to prepare a simple quiz made up from songs/hymns which mention the words joy or happiness and that will be known to your group. This could be in the form of a quiz sheet, with the initial letter of each word in the song title being given, so people can fill in the blank letters or you could play the first line of the song/hymn and get them to write down what they think the song/hymn is called.

Play the quiz.

Get people talking about their favourite songs/hymns which include joyfulness/happiness. Talk about Psalm 100 verse 1 and the part that this kind of hymn/song have in our worship. Talk about an attitude of joy.

Belonging To God Connections

You will need: a ball of wool/string.

Ask those participating to stand in a circle. Give one person the ball of wool/string. Ask them to keep a tight hold of the end of the wool and then get them to throw the ball to another person, saying the person's name out loud, as they throw it to them. You could add to the game by asking people to identify a connection they have with the person they are throwing the ball to or by asking the person holding the ball of wool to say something they like, or an activity they like to do such as 'My favourite colour is purple', or 'I have a dog, that I like to take out for walks'. Everyone in the group to whom that also applies should raise their hand. The person throwing the ball of wool, should then throw it to someone who has had their hand up.

Repeat this till everyone is included, making sure that each person keeps hold of their bit of wool as this will allow a spider's web effect to build up as the game is played.

Look at the web that's been made and think about all the connections. Talk about Psalm 100 verse 3 and about all being connected to and with each other as part of the church and how we all belong to God.

Through The Gates

You will need: Post It notes, pens, access to an area with two doors or if weather is good, you could do this activity outside using outside doors or gates, (making sure that it is safe, to do so, beforehand).

Divide those participating into two equal teams. Each team is allocated a door, gate or other suitable point. Teams should then line up opposite their door, at an agreed distance, perhaps the other end of hall, aisle or path. When the leader shouts 'go' one of the team members writes something for which the team is thankful onto a Post It note. Then the first person in the team runs to the other side and sticks the Post It note on the door or gate. While they are doing this, the other team members give suggestions and write down the things that they are thankful for onto the Post It notes, (one thing per note, one thing per person). Each team member, then runs and sticks a Post It note on the door until everyone has had a turn. The game is won by the team whose members have complete the task first.

Take time to read the post it notes and to think about what people are thankful for. Talk about Psalm 100 verse 4, about entering the temple gates with thanksgiving. Discuss ways we can incorporate an attitude of gratitude more often into our daily lives.

sample

live the story

Call To Worship

In sound and in movement,
in idea and in dream,
in word and in silence,
in thought and in desire,
we make a noise
a fully human and divine noise:
a sacred cacophony
of music and story,
that praises the diversity
that is the love of God.
In holy bedlam
we worship.

Prayer Of Dedication

Bountiful God,
we give thanks to you and
bless your name.
For we know you are good,
and your steadfast love endures forever.

We give thanks for the individual gifts
we have been given,
and for this community of faith
which helps to develop those gifts for the good of all.

We bring ourselves
and these monetary offerings
for the broadening and bettering
of your kingdom in the world.
Make these givers and these gifts your own
as they are joyfully given.
Amen.

Prayer Of Adoration And Confession

Most Holy One,
we have come to worship,
to make a joyful noise with singing,
all of us,
even those who feel they cannot sing,
and those who will not sing
because they have been told they cannot.
Lord, you know what is in our hearts
and you invite us all to serve you with gladness,
even when we may not particularly feel glad.
We give thanks that joy runs deep.
We give thanks, too, for your creation,
for days which stretch,
filled with daylight,
and more potential hours of worship
to sing your praise.

We are grateful
for fathers on this Father's Day;
for scriptural images of caring,
parent-figures who guide us
in the way of your truth and love;
for the relationship
Jesus describes with you,
Abba, Daddy, Father,
that teaches us how to interact
in the family of faith;
and we are grateful for the Holy Spirit
that pours love into our hearts.

Merciful God,
we confess that we forget
to be grateful
and we forget to be joyful.
We get caught up in our must dos,
resent demands on our time,
and surround ourselves with news
that we allow to diminish our joy
and our time with you.
We forget the importance of
right relationships in our lives.
Help us to realise that in you
we are made complete and
that this completion brings the deepest joy.

We offer our worship to you this day
in hope and full of praise for you,
these things we pray in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayers For Others And Ourselves

O God,
we pray today for fathers.
We thank you that you are our heavenly father,
that we have been adopted
into your family, siblings of Jesus.
We are in awe of your love and justice
of your abundant grace and seeking of relationship.
Like the psalmist, we know
that you have made us and that we are yours.

We also give thanks for earthly fathers,
those who follow your commandment to love;
those who support mothers as
'Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh';
those who instruct their children
teaching them the scriptures
and making space for the Sabbath.

We bring to you this day, Lord,
people who are not feeling joyful,
those who are estranged from their earthly fathers,
who have been abused or rejected.
Help children not define views of fatherhood
through that lens, debilitating as it can be,
but rather through what we know of you.
We pray for reconciliation and peace within families.

We pray for those who are struggling with identity—
trying to negotiate who they are
and who they are striving to be.
We pray for moments of joy
in recognition that each person
is loved by you, uniquely.
We pray for reconciliation and peace within.

Lord, there are people hurting in our communities,
people waiting for treatment,
people grieving the loss of a loved one,
people fearing how they are going to afford
the basic necessities in life.
We pray for reconciliation and peace in our communities.

Loving God, there are people
hurting in communities far from ours,
brothers and sisters in faith
who are persecuted for following you,
people actively putting their lives on the line
for the sake of protecting the freedoms of others,
and people who are dying as 'collateral damage'
amidst wars and conflicts across this troubled world.
We know you understand the value of life,
that the good news is rooted
in your gift of love through Jesus Christ,
and in the Holy Spirit among us.
We pray for reconciliation and peace across the world.

Gracious God,
your steadfast love endures forever
and your faithfulness to all generations.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Reflective Prayer

Know that the Lord is God.
Know that the Lord is good.

With thanksgiving
all parts of the body of Christ,
all the earth
come into God's presence.

We worship making a joyful noise
in so many different ways,
in so many different places
throughout the kingdom of God.
Christ's followers...
hands raised,
lips open,
eyes lifted,
feet walking,
in praise!

Know that the Lord is good.
Know that the Lord is God.
Amen.

Reflection

Make a joyful noise,
all the earth:
dogs barking,
birds chirping,
cats purring,
hyenas cackling,
whales singing,
elephants trumping,
horses neighing,
ducks quacking,
babies giggling,
choirs singing,
water rushing,
leaves rustling,
waves crashing,
bees buzzing,
frogs croaking,
grasshoppers stridulating,
sheep bleating,
hawks screeching,
an extraordinary diversity,
a wondrous cacophony,
from depths to heights,
subsonic to ultrasonic,
rejoicing,
living,
thriving,
part of creation,
a gift of God,
and worthy of thanksgiving.

Sending

From this place of worship
we go out,
having entered with thanksgiving,
we now return to the world,
with a spirit of gratitude
and an attitude of joy.
Remain with us, God of love,
that our joy may be complete.

Praise/Hymns

All people that on earth do dwell	CH4 63 / MP 20
And can it be that I should gain	CH4 396 / MP 33
Come down, O Love divine	CH4 489 / MP 89
For the healing of the nations	CH4 706 / STF 696
Here on Jesus Christ I will stand (Kwake Yesu nasimama)	GWA 171
How great Thou art	CH4 154 / MP 506
Jubilate, everybody	CH4 65 / MP 394
My song is love unknown	CH4 399 / MP 478
Now thank we all our God	CH4 182 / MP 486
O for a thousand tongues to sing	CH4 352 / MP 496
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	CH4 124 / MP 564
Sing all creation	CH4 64
Sing of the Lord's goodness	CH4 157 / STF 65
Spirit of God, descend upon my heart	CH4 495
What wondrous love is this	CH4 395
Worship the Lord with joyful songs of praise	GWA 13



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