

Read aloud as Call to Worship (get three volunteers)

Psalm 48

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

³My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

Welcome, introduction

Today we are going to look and find and recognise where God is – everywhere, all around us, always.

God might not look like a person – as we wander and wonder let us think what does God look like as we share this time together and at the end we will come again and think Where is our God?

Scavenger Hunt – you have a card where you can look and find things as we wander along – maybe you can help someone else find things too

We are going to wander and as we do we will have time to chat, to share our life stories, our worries and our concerns, our joys and happiness. We are here together to worship.

Begin Walk with Praise Shout (Celebration)

Praise Sticks –

Decorate sticks with ribbon and bells, with acorns, find sticks to bang together. Let's make a noise!

*⁴These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One^[a]
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.*

As we start our walk we are going to do some shouting- who can shout loud? Have a try. One of the great things in the outside is that we can be quiet and we can be loud. For this moment we are going to be loud. You don't have to shout out loud if you don't like to. If you would like to shout out loud, have a listen for echoes, for the wind whispering in response, for sticks and stones rattling and rumbling.

So as we start our walk down the steps think of things that you like, that you love, that make you happy and as you think of it, shout it out. As soon as you think of something shout it out!

Stop One – Read aloud (volunteer)

- ⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
- *Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.*
- ⁶My soul is downcast within me;
- *therefore I will remember you*
- from the land of the Jordan,
- *the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.*

Collect up some leaves

We remembered the things that make us happy, but sometimes we feel sad. What happens in Spring to the trees? (they grow leaves/blossom) Then in the Summer? And what about now in the Autumn? (loose leaves/change colour)

Seasons change the way the world around us looks. Seasons in our life can change the way our world looks – from happy to sad, sure to worry, answers and questions. God remains God in all things and all seasons.

Take your leaves and scatter them around, as you scatter them think about things that you might be worrying about/ sad about.

What happens when the leaves lie on the ground? (they decompose and go into the ground and feed it to help new things grow)

As we trust God with some of our worries, our sadness and our questions we can think of these leaves that as we tell God about them He begins to work something new from them. They can bring goodness to the soil of our lives.

*⁷Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.*

Carry on the walk.

Listen out for what you can hear – who can hear the quietest thing?

Stop Two - Rocks

⁸By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹I say to God my Rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?”

¹⁰My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

¹¹Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.

Hope – what is hope? What do we hope for? What do we hope in?

Decorate the rock with images/colours/words of hope.

In the Old Testament times people would build alters or pile up rocks and stones as a marker of what God had done. Today we have spent time worshipping, praying, listening and being part of God on earth. We have met with god in the everyday and in a special way. We are going to put down our rocks as a reminder of what God has done for us and for others who might walk down this path.

Read together the Psalm
Prayer