

The Benefice of  
EAST CLEVEDON - LENT COURSE 2022  
*Diocese of Bath and Wells*

**PSALM 95: 1 - 7**

*(Venite, exultemus Domino - 1662 BCP Version)*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord:  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:  
and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God:  
and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are all the corners of the earth:  
and the strength of the hills is his also.**

The sea is his, and he made it:  
and his hands prepared the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and fall down:  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is the Lord our God:  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

LENT COURSE 2022

9th March	Noël Hector on Psalm 42
16th March	Joshua Fowler on Psalm 117
23rd March	Caroline Sackley on Psalm 63
30th March	Nicholas Maddock on Psalm 22
6th April	Tim Daplyn on Psalm 95

*Notes on all of these Psalms are available at the back of each church  
or from the Church Office*

## PRAYER

*(from Celebrating Common Prayer)*

Lord God, the maker of all,  
as we bow down in praise this day,  
make us attentive to your voice  
and do not test us beyond our enduring;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## REFLECTION

Psalm 95 is known as an “enthronement psalm”. One theory holds that it was recited in the Jerusalem temple during a New Year festival in celebration of God’s enthronement ‘above all gods’.

The central theological message of Psalm 95: 1 - 7 is that “the Lord is a great King” (v 3). To recognize God’s kingship is to recognize that God created us and sustains us. For that reason God is worthy of our praise. The psalm also suggests that our praise is more than words lifted heavenward. It is an expression of faith and it should be lived out in faithfulness and trust.

I have known this song all of my life. As a young child, crouched down among the hassocks and hymnbooks of a village church that always smelled of damp and dead mice. As a chorister at school, so anxious and eager for release into the freedom of a Sunday afternoon *exeat* that was a choirboy’s privilege. As a soldier battling through some sort of Morning Office on my commute to work. And as a priest granted the privilege of daily prayer and time simply to be with God. It has been theme song to my life.

In recent times these words were on my lips in what I saw as a ‘living Venite’: in the scenes and sounds of our remote croft in the wilderness of Wester Ross. It was, like the holy island of Iona, ‘a thin place’ where God seemed very near. There, one was

immersed in the images employed by the Psalmist: the majesty of the mountains; the enfolding sea and the folded rocks along the shore; the flocks and the wild things that intruded upon ear and eye. Like St Francis’ ‘Canticle of the Creatures’ one said and sang Venite in a great company of other voices.

The Psalm is inspirational and encouraging: “Venite - Come!” it repeats to us. The verbs are active and filled with enthusiasm. In all the situations of our lives it calls us to join cause with the great company of creation throughout the world and all down the ages in praise of our Creator, God and King.

*Tim Daplyn*

### **Meditation on Psalm 95 by Malcolm Guite**

*from “DAVID’S CROWN - Sounding the Psalms!”*

*published by Canterbury Press: ISBN 978-1-78622-306-7*

For equal rights and justice, cry out loud!  
Then come before God’s presence and be glad,  
and harden not your hearts. Do not be proud,

but kneel before your Maker, for He made  
you for Himself, and also for each other,  
to share His good gifts equally. Our God

is everyone’s Salvation, and our Father  
is Lord and father equally to all.  
Let us rejoice before Him, and let Him gather

the scattered tribes and nations back from all  
the corners of the earth, and from  
the wilderness of willfulness. His call

to bring our lives and our whole world to Him  
resounds in all of us. Could we but hear,  
Our Saviour, King and Shepherd calls us home.