

# HOLY TRINITY SUNNINGDALE

Bible Reading: Psalm 103:1-5

Date: 19 July 2015

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We are thinking today about God and in our words and in our music we are thinking about praising him ... for who he is and for what he has done.

The Bible reading mentions various of God's characteristics and we are going to discover something about each of these in turn ...

He is great, he is kind, he forgives, he heals, he keeps us safe, he loves, he gives, he makes us strong.

Sometimes it's hard to remember things – we all know the party game where you have some objects on a tray and you have a minute to look at the things and then you have to remember as many of them as you can. We are going to play that now.

## **God is great: Bottle of Beer**

God doesn't just provide the ordinary ... water, bread.

He also provides beer, chocolate, trifle, sunrise, warm sea-water, beautiful flowers, laughing cow cheese, Ritz crackers and blue skies.

He is an amazing artist and a wonderful provider. God is great.

## **God is kind: Tissues**

We know him as shepherd caring for his sheep. He knows when we are worried or anxious or upset. He knows when things are tough or

uncertain. He comes alongside us and comforts and cares for us in our tears and when we are sad.

He understands all we are going through always. God is kind.

## **God forgives: Pen**

He is willing to let us try again, to make a new start.

He knows that we muck up sometimes and get things wrong. Last week in our confession we had some cut up pictures of the church building (reminder us that we members of the church and sometimes get things wrong). We were invited to pick up a piece from the front to say we were sorry for something we had done, said or thought that week.

He knows all about us and strikes through the record. God forgives.

## **God heals us: Screwdriver**

God knows that sometimes we need fixing. He invites us to pray. Sometimes we pray once and we are made well. Sometimes we pray many times and eventually we are made well. Sometimes we pray many times and nothing seems to happen.

He can make people well and we must pray that he will. God heals us.

## **God keeps us safe: Plasters**

He wants to protect us from danger. He knows that sometimes we can get ourselves into difficulties and into trouble. Sometimes that's a physical thing; sometimes it's an emotional thing or an argument or a disagreement.

He watches all we do all the time. He knows what's going on. God keeps us safe.

### **God loves us: Heart**

We know his love because he sent Jesus to help us know how to live.

Very recently we had some students from Charters School in to visit the church and talk with us about our work. One question was about the fact that we can't see God. We explained that the best way of "seeing" God was finding out about his character (as we are this morning) or even better looking at Jesus. We said that the bible says clearly that is we want to see God we must look at Jesus. If we want to see the Father, we must look at the Son.

He has loved us from the very beginning and will continue to do so. God loves us.

### **God gives: Coins**

He knows what we need. He is amazingly generous. In the UK we have fantastic resources. Somewhere to live. A warm bed to sleep in. Clean clothes to wear.

And God puts in our hearts a desire to help those who may not have as much as we do. We can be involved in this work through Foodbank, through Clothesbank very locally and through our link with Tearfund and their work in Uganda overseas.

He has endless resources and lavishly shares them with us. God gives.

### **God makes us strong: Protein bar**

When we feel weak, he is there for us and helps us to keep going. Some days life just feels hard. Maybe there's homework we are struggling with; people we are finding difficult; family disagreements or problems in the office. Maybe someone's unwell or someone has died. God is strong and can make us strong if we ask him to help us, stand alongside us and walk the journey with us.

He knows we need help sometimes and he's always ready to give it. God makes us strong.

So ... a memory game to help us think about God and how amazing he is:

He is great                      Bottle of beer

He is kind                        Tissues

He forgives                      Pen

He heals                         Screwdriver

He keeps us safe               Plasters

He loves                         Heart

He gives                         Coins

He makes us strong Protein Bar

Let's pray ...