

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Psalm 9: 1,2 *"I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;*

*I will tell of all your wonders.*

*I will be glad and rejoice in you;*

*I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."*

2 Chronicles 5: 13(part) *"The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord,..."*

Acts 16: 25 *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and other prisoners were listening to them."*

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! In these fraught times how we miss singing hymns of praise to God. Mumbling behind a mask isn't the same. It's praise on mute.

The wholehearted joy of the psalmist in praise of God stands out and what a spectacle it must have been in Jerusalem when the Ark of the Covenant was finally placed in Solomon's magnificent temple in about 959 BC. The event was not only a celebration of the building but a thanksgiving to God for his bringing the people of Israel to the Promised Land. They knew who they needed to praise and thank for their good fortune.

In much less happy circumstances Paul and Silas locked up and chained in prison in Philippi praised God by praying and singing hymns. In a dramatic manner their faith resulted in their release to allow them to continue, in spite of threats, to preach the Word of God. We don't have to rush around blowing trumpets, clashing cymbals or shouting but we should count our blessings daily and thank and praise God for them.