

## Deacon's Beacons

August 17, 2021

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:4–5

We read this many times throughout the Scriptures. But do we truly believe it? Do we believe that God will do what He has said? Do we really see God as faithful? Given our human experience, it would be very easy to say no to these questions. But we cannot think of God in human terms. We cannot limit God by our human experience. Nor can we judge how God fulfills His promises by simple human evidence. Did God fail to heal someone you loved? So you think He does not care. But God does not interfere in the natural world as an everyday occurrence. That does not mean that God is not overseeing the world. Free will allows us to do as we wish but it also invites destructive forces into the world. St. Paul tells us that the wages of sin is death. God could have simply stepped into time and eliminated all disease and all evil. But that means that you and I do not have a choice about loving God. Instead, God stepped into history and gave us a way back to Him. He may not have eliminated sickness and evil but He did give us a way to live with it and reach for something beyond this world. He gave us Himself as payment for our deserved punishment and our undeserved justification. God does step into the natural order and changes it profoundly. It is just not how we would like to think. Nevertheless, God is truly and always faithful to His promises.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike