

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 13th September 2020

Exodus 14:19-31

19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Prayers of approach, confession and pardon *Rev'd Andy Braunston*

O God of freedom
You led Your people of old
with cloud by day and fire by night.
You parted the sea with Your breath,
and saved Your people from oppression.
Free us, O God, in our own age,
from
...indifference in the face of poverty,
...ignorance in the face of fact,

...disbelief in the face of evidence before our very eyes. Deliver us good Lord, that we may allow the earth to heal.

Lord of the living and Lord of the dead, we are conscious of our sin.

We are weak in faith,
quarrelsome in nature
and there is no health in us.

When we deny the science of climate change, enlighten us.

When we continue to pollute our earth, convict us.

When we exploit Creation,
chastise us.

When we fail to cherish the Earth, our fragile home, change us.

When we fail to love the poor and oppressed, forgive us.

Give us time, O God,
even at this late hour,
to change,

to turn away from destruction and back to You.

God is the fount of all mercy

and through the life, death, and new life of Jesus Christ has shown us how to live,

calling us to renewed action and commitment.

Through the ministry of the Church

may you receive pardon, peace, and wisdom, that you may use your time well,
be filled with grace,

and help to renew the earth.

Amen

Let us pray with Christ:

God, who makes us with the Earth God, who gives us to the world God-with-us
in our struggles:

Hear our fears and needs

Hold our hand as You walk beside us Advise, encourage and guide us.

We pray for the world:

Reflect on some of the key global news events this week.

- Are there people or communities in need, or others that can be thankful?
- Are there reports of progress or setbacks to bring to God?
- Can we pray in sorrow or in hope for events that make us feel overwhelmed?
- Can we hear the Earth's voice in any of these stories that we need to bring in prayer?

- Which of our human, animal or environmental neighbours do we need to bring before God?
- Bring our enemies and those we fear to God today
- Pray for peace throughout Creation

God-with-us,

Hear our fears and needs

Hold our hand as You walk beside us Advise, encourage and guide us.

We pray for the Church:

- Give thanks for the faithfulness of the church community, and its undergirding of prayer
- Acknowledge any national or local divisions within the church and pray that God's wisdom and discernment will be sought
- Seek guidance on how the Church can increase and weave environmental concerns into our life and work
- Pray for a desire to experience the joy of a deeper fellowship with all Creation

God-with-us,

Hear our fears and needs

Hold our hand as You walk beside us Advise, encourage and guide us.

We pray for ourselves:

- In silence, we bring our personal concerns to God, who knows and understands our deepest thoughts
- Ask God for support and perseverance when we struggle, and a sustaining sign when we get things right
- Pray for those beside us, acknowledging and respecting what they cannot share with us
- Ask God for a sense of impatience for change, rather than accepting the way things are
- Pray for peace in our hearts, and the fuller joys of Christ in our lives.

God-with-us,

Hear our fears and needs

Hold our hand as You walk beside us Advise, encourage and guide us. Amen