

Thine for Ever! God of Love

*Thine for ever! God of love,
Hear us from thy throne above;
Thine for ever may we be
Here and in eternity.*

*Thine for ever! Lord of life,
Shield us through our earthly strife;
Thou the Life, the Truth, the Way,
Guide us to the realms of day.*

*Thine for ever! O how blest
They who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, Guardian, heavenly Friend,
O defend us to the end.*

*Thine for ever! Shepherd, keep
us thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath thy care,
Let us all thy goodness share.*

*Thine for ever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by thee supplied,
All our sins by thee forgiven,
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.*

[Mary Maude, 1819-1913 (TNEH 463)]



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

Vicar:	The Reverend Russell Trickey	M: 0433 933738
	Email: trickeyrussell13@gmail.com	
Associate Priest:	The Reverend John St Q Howells	5244 0649
Organist:	Mr Winton Barry	
Office:	Email: enquiries@christchurchgeelong.org	5221 8000
Office Administrator:	Mrs Patricia Cowling	

Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

13th September 2020

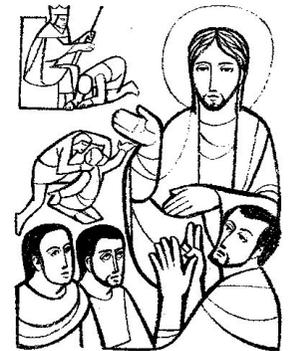
Liturgical Colour: Green

Sentence

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Prayer of the Day *

O God,
you call your Church to witness
that in Christ we are reconciled to you:
help us so to proclaim
the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen



The Vicar Writes



The Exodus story may be viewed in terms of the relationship a person has when they have accepted discipleship to God. We reflect on the great saints and prophets who submitted to God, who made God the centre of their lives and who thereby successfully dissolved their egos in the fire of Spirit. Moses was such a person and the trials that came upon him were more than what most people could handle and yet he mostly came out victorious, not always but mostly. After all a saint is only a sinner who doesn't give up, so when we apply Moses' situation to ours, we find many helpful directions for spiritual life.

Moses had to lead the Hebrew people out of bondage to the Egyptians; a difficult task, many of them didn't want to go, they were comfortable in their slavery. God was inspiring Moses from within to see through the illusions of the people, he knew that slavery was stifling these people's spiritual growth and they needed to be free from it in order to have a chance at enlightenment. There are many negative qualities stifling us and they stem from bondage to our conditioning that makes us comfortable with slavery to narrow mindedness, religious bigotry, racism and materialism. Our first struggle is to begin to try to centre ourselves in God, our nervous disorders make it almost impossible to sit still for a moment, so we have a real battle on our hands. But that's okay, the Lord is stronger than our obstinance – there is hope.

When a person surrenders to God and seeks God's inner guidance, the Lord begins to make subtle changes to the heart and also takes charge of our lives. The Lord may set up situations for us to test us and may also protect us from situations too difficult to handle. This is represented in the Exodus story by the angel of God that went before and behind the Hebrews as they fled Egypt, and God as the pillar of cloud that moved in front and behind them. From within the heart of a faithful soul the Lord acts and manifests all kinds of divine arrangements; this way, a person of faith makes the Lord present.

The pillar of cloud followed the Hebrews by day and night and prevented the Egyptians from inflicting harm upon them. When we decide to offer our lives to the Lord, we may find our bad tendencies being held at bay by the presence of the Lord and enthusiasm for God and for devotional concepts put in their place. The Lord makes the divine presence felt through various forms of grace and our gratitude for what God does for us deepens, as we realise, we have a divine friend and guide within our hearts.

The Lord looked down from the pillar of cloud and struck fear into the Egyptians' hearts causing them to flee, but their chariot wheels were stuck in the mud. As God begins to permeate our being the Spirit our negative tendencies flee and become slowed down, allowing divine, spiritual qualities and values to become stronger. Our nature transforms from one enslaved to the ego that is selfish and identified with all things temporary to one inspired by Spirit and identified with all things eternal.

The waters of the sea covered the Egyptians drowning their whole army, and the Hebrews were freed from bondage to them and established as their own people. God's Spirit becomes victorious over our egotistical separateness from God and all obstacles to God's love and grace are removed. The soul becomes forever free to live in God's heavenly kingdom; and is established in the identity of being an eternal servant of God.

The Lord be with you,

Fr Russell

“Psalm 114”

When Israel came out of Egypt:
and the house of Jacob
from among a people of an alien tongue,

Judah became his sanctuary:
and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled:
Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams:
and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:
O Jordan, that you were driven back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams:
and you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the rock into a pool of water:
and the flint-stone into a welling spring.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: All those affected by natural disasters, including Japan & South Korea; our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the Covid disease, give them knowledge, wisdom & a way forward for us all!

THE CHURCH: The Anglican Church of South America; Theological Colleges, Church Schools & Church Kindergartens; Camberwell Girls' Grammar School; Holy Trinity, Hastings; St Eanswythe's Altona and St Clement's, Altona Meadows; St Aiden's Parkdale; St Augustine's Moreland; the Anglican Communion Office and for all the work they do on behalf of Anglicans worldwide.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: Like the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt, pray that we might see where God is leading us, so that we might cast off our shackles and walk towards freedom (*Source: ABM*).

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time: (Vernon Trickey). We remember with thanks: John Oliver Feetham, bishop and bush brother, d.1947 (Tuesday); John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of WA, d.1856 (Friday).

NEXT SUNDAY -20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST & MARTYR

Readings: Proverbs 3.1-6; Psalm 19.1-6;

Gospel Matthew 9.9-13

