

Psalm 105.1–6, 16–22

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.

Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.

Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.

Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

Then he called down a famine on the land:
and destroyed the bread that was their stay.

But he had sent a man ahead of them:
Joseph who was sold into slavery,

Whose feet they fastened with fetters:
and thrust his neck into a hoop of iron.

Till the time that his words proved true:
he was tested by the Lord's command.

Then the king sent and loosed him:
the ruler of nations set him free;

He made him master of his household:
and ruler over all his possessions,

To rebuke his officers at will:
and to teach his counsellors wisdom.

A Prayer Book for Australia, Broughton books, 1995

St David's, Ardross
St George's, Applecross
13 August 2023

Applecross
Anglican Church
Diocese of Perth



Reflection on Pentecost XI

The Joseph story in Genesis features three sets of two dreams, all six construed as divine messages. These six dreams turned Joseph's life into a living nightmare. His brothers resented their father's favouritism, epitomised in his coat of many colours. They sold Joseph to Midianite merchants who in turn sold him to an Egyptian official named Potiphar. This began thirteen years of slavery and imprisonment for Joseph. He was later falsely accused by Potiphar's wife. Languishing in prison for crimes he didn't commit, he was forgotten by the cup bearer, who had gained his own freedom due to Joseph's interpretation of his dream.

As history unfolded roles reversed. Joseph's brothers became beggars in a famine, whereas he was elevated to Pharaoh's second-in-command. When their fratricide was exposed, the brothers expected retaliation. However in contrast to his brothers, Joseph forgave his brothers. This week's psalm honours Joseph. He believed that God had a providential purpose in the wrongs that he had suffered. "Don't be afraid," Joseph assured his brothers. "Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good".

The Joseph story shows how God uses our sins, sufferings and failures in redemptive ways. Many have observed how God brings good out of evil. St. Augustine wrote, "God judged it better to bring good out of evil than to allow no evil to exist." Frederick Buechner writes, "sin itself can be a means of grace." Julian of Norwich said "sin will be no shame but an honour." Thomas Aquinas gave us the phrase "*O felix culpa!*" in reference to the fall of Adam. "O fortunate crime!" The fall of Adam with all its consequences triggered something far better and greater - the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is dangerous territory. There's a thin and mysterious line between honouring God's providence and calling evil good. We should also be wary of enabling or excusing bad behaviour. Nor should we turn a blind eye to injustice as if it didn't matter. It matters.

Joseph moves beyond concerns and discerns a larger purpose of good in the evil he suffered. Perhaps this is something we can claim for ourselves while never presuming for another.

Wendy

PRAYERS Gracious God, we ask for your blessing and healing for all.

In the Diocese we pray for: Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy and Bishop Kate Wilmot, and Bishop Christopher Ruto of our partnered Diocese of Eldoret. Our partnered parish St Stephens Aturei, priest Rev'd Josephat Bett and people.

For our Parish : for our Parish Council in their work of Mission.

For those in need at this time: Prayers of comfort, healing, and peace for Daphne Pyke, Isabel and all on our hearts.

Peter Luke (2004), Nigel Livesey (2014), Greg Brotherson (2021)
May their portions in paradise be rest in peace.

13 AUGUST PENTECOST XI	ST GEORGE'S 7.45 AM	ST DAVID'S 9.30 AM
Welcomers	Phyllis	Jill and Ross
1st reading <i>Genesis 37.1-4</i>	Ann	Deb
2nd reading <i>Romans 10.4-15</i>	Lilian	Judy
Gospel <i>Matthew 14.22-36</i>	Meliata	Meliata
Intercessor	Ann	Sam
Morning Tea	Ann	Deb and Sam
HYMNS	111 589 (tune 136) omitting v 2 or Gospel Acclamation 125 vv 1,3,4,6 598	

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NOTICES

FUNDRAISING for SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

This Sunday 13 August 2.00pm St David's church. Concert *Sunday Serenades* \$25 Adults \$10 primary aged children. This can be done via <https://events.humanitix.com/sunday-serenades-joondalup-symphony-orchestra>

Please bring your tickets to the concert. Or purchase at the door. If you are able to contribute to the afternoon tea with a plate of food it would be appreciated. All costs saved mean the more we are able to gift our local YouthCare team. This is our one annual fundraising event for the school chaplains.

DEPARTURE of JAMES Thank you everyone who ensured we farewelled our Curate in the Applecross Parish tradition. The Parish gifted James a Communion kit which he will be able to use at both his chaplaincy position and within his Parish.

COMMISSIONING James will be commissioned **1.00pm Saturday 2 September** at St Augustine's, Como by Bishop Kate Wilmot. We have been asked to rsvp for seating and catering purposes by Friday 18 August to parish@como-manning.perth.anglican.org

PEREGRIN will return as our guest preacher at St David's on **Sunday 20 August**.

AMUA (Mothers' Union) Meeting Monday 14 August St George's **10.00 am**
All welcome. Phyllis 9364 5271.

CCJWA seminar, What Jews wish Christians understood ... Three Jewish educators will share their approach to texts from the Hebrew scriptures that are interpreted differently in Christian traditions. **7.30pm Tuesday 22 August** at St David's. Further details on notice boards. Please rsvp Mary Marshall.

MEDITATION Thursdays 5.30pm St David's church. All welcome.

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE Fund raising The Parish number is **C10681155**

AUGUST MESSENGER is available to read on our Facebook page and on the Perth Diocesan webpage.

BOOK WORKSHOP Thursday 12 October 2.00-3.00pm followed by High Tea. All participating in this workshop are now charged with the reading of the book.

PARISH COMMUNITY MISSION Everyone is welcome to share invites with friends, family, and neighbours to our parish. Please take and distribute.

LIVE STREAM Team link We invite you to a scheduled Team meeting, for the 9.30am service. Join the Meeting using the link: <http://bit.ly/3JydK0d>