

## **Devotion for the week leading to the 25th of October 2020**

*This service is written for Stretton Park and McDonald Wing in Maffra, Laurina Lodge in Heyfield and Royal Freemason's in Sale, but with the intention of also being available for private use.*

This week we will be using Psalm 90 as the theme for our service, if you wish, you can read the whole Psalm before we start.

HYMN No. 1 - All people that on earth do dwell

*You can read the words to yourself, or out loud. If you remember the tune well enough you can sing it yourself. You can, of course sing just the first, or the first and last verses.*

From Psalm 90, verses 13 to 17: Have compassion on us O Lord, make our times of gladness as great as the times we are troubled. May our hands find useful things to do.

### **PRAYER**

Lord God, you have been our dwelling place from one generation to the next. Have compassion on us and show us your favour. From everlasting, from the depths of eternity, you are the creator God. You made the earth and the mountains. You created us and gave us mortal life. Throughout our lives we generally try to follow your ways, but sometimes we become side-tracked, becoming selfish and hurtful to others. Sometimes we do things that diminish us as your people. We repent and are sorry for our sins and misdeeds. We ask for your forgiveness through Jesus Christ who bought reconciliation to the world..... The Gospel, the good news of Christ is that our sins are forgiven, thanks be to God, Amen.

HYMN No. 9 - Praise my soul the king of heaven

BIBLE READINGS - Deuteronomy 34 ;1-12 & I Thessalonians 2:1-18

### **REFLECTION**

Our Old Testament readings have been following the story of the Exodus. The descendants of Abraham left Egypt where they had been a down-trodden ethnic group, they walked out into the wilderness area of Arabia on their way to the land of promise. They were to settle in the area that we now call by the name of its people - Israel. Moses was their leader, he followed God and the people followed him. The people did not make Moses' job easy for him, and Moses did not always follow God the way he should have done. By the time the people neared the land of promise, Moses had become an old man. He was able to walk up a hill and see the new land in the distance, but he died before he got there.

In St. Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he writes that he really wanted to get back to see them again, but had been prevented from doing so. As far as Paul could tell, he had done everything right, but there was always something stopping him from making the journey.

In the words of a once popular song - "you can't always get what you want". Sometimes, for better or worse, for any number of reasons, things just don't work out the way we would like them to.

The Psalm for the day, Psalm 90, speaks of the limits of our mortality. It says that we have seventy or eighty years, but those years seem to fly away so quickly. All lives have times of trouble and sorrow, but it is God who brings us gladness and joy. Times of gladness and joy come when we are helping others or spending positive rewarding time with others. Those are times when we are doing the things that God would have us do. They are good times to remember, good times to dwell on. They are positive and uplifting, and that is where our hearts should be.

We don't always get what we want. Like Moses and St. Paul, we can't always achieve the aims and goals we want to, but that does not mean we are unsuccessful. It would be harsh to say that both Moses and St. Paul were unsuccessful. Let us be content with what we have achieved in life and give thanks to God for that. That is where contentment and fulfilment lie. Amen.

HYMN No. 28 - How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

#### PRAYER

Thank you God that you know us through and through. You know us your creation, mortals who try to follow your plans for life as best we can. Be with us in our lives and bring us contentment and fulfilment we pray. We pray too for our friends and our families, that their times of joy and fulfilment might easily outweigh any troubles they may have to face in life. We pray for medical workers who bring health to us, and to those we know, and to those across the world. Keep us safe in your care, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever, AMEN

HYMN No 31 - Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so

#### The BLESSING

May God be with you through all of your years.

And may the blessing of the almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always, Amen