**Sunnyside Church**

**Wednesday morning at 9.30 on 30 September 2020**

**Readings**

***Psalm 65***

***Exodus 17:1-7***

*Some reflections on these passages.*

*\*Both of our readings feature water. Psalm 65 is often said or sung at Harvest time. It’s a reminder to us that rain is a sign of God’s blessing (a matter I often reminded couples if it was raining on their wedding day!). This year’s wheat harvest is 70% down because it rained at the wrong time. Let’s thank God that we have a harvest something that many will not be able to do.*

*\*The Israelites were in the desert. It must have been a logistical nightmare for Moses to see that they had water for all the people and their animals. In the previous chapter we read that God sent then manna (bread from heaven) , but now they had no water. Not surprisingly they wanted to return to Egypt where in spite of being slaves they had a plentiful supply of water from the river Nile. Whilst the people were putting the LORD to the test Moses cried out to the LORD and he was led to the rock where there was water.*

*\*The people filed to trust the Lord and because of this they were not to enter the promised land. Psalm 95:7-11 are a warning to us of the consequences of unfaithfulness.*

*Some Questions*

*\*We are on our life’s journey. Many see the salvation from slavery in Egypt, the wanderings in the desert, and our entry into the promised land to be like our journey. The will be times when we are conscious of The LORD feeding us like the manna in the desert, but also like today’s reading when we are thirsty, wish we weren’t on this journey, and doubt the LORD’s presence. This incident is a reminder to us that despite all the difficulties we face the LORD is with us and will provide what we need.*

*\* Today water is a major issue not the least in Egypt and the surrounding lands. Egypt to today is 95% reliant on the river Nile for it’s water. Most of the water in the Nile comes from the mountains in Ethiopia. Ethiopia wants to build a dam to provide both hydro-electric and more water for Ethiopia and thus reduce the amount of water reaching Egypt. There is a similar problem in SE Asia with the Mekong river. A lot of recent wars have been about oil, the next could be about water. Let’s thank God for the gift of water and pray that it will be used responsibly and for the good of all.*

*A Prayer for Harvest Thanksgiving*

Eternal God

you crown the year with your goodness

and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season

grant that we may use them to your glory

for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord

who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit

one God, now and for ever. Amen

*Collect for last Sunday*

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you

and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,

and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

***Intercessions***

***The Church***

For our Church and parish,

 Rebecca in her leadership, and our Curates Rachel and Hilary.

 For Alan, Michael and Richard our Bishops and our national church leaders especially as they guide the churches in these difficult times.

The changes the Church will have to face for the future in our worship, mission and organisations

Our Mission Links

 Bex Henderson and the Loved Family Centre in Uganda. Give thanks for the financial provision for the building project.

 Sam Baguma with MAF with the current restrictions.

 James and Joanna Price with the Rohinga and all the current problems

For our follow up to Gift Day

***The World***

Governments of the world in the decisions they have to make

All involved in education especially with thse in universities and colleges as theey cope with the consequences of the virus.

For race relations and our own racial awareness

Key workers especially in hospitals and care homes

Those working in medical research especially those working towards a vaccine

***Those in need***

Rebecca’s mother Susan

All who continue to suffer from the virus

Those who have lost loved ones

 *John Kirkby*