

From the Archdeacon's Desk

27 August 2020

Hello,

Our Sunday lectionary cycle is now inviting us to hear again the story of the Exodus. This time in the nation of Israel's history when, in a very short period of time, their whole world changed. We might be able to identify with them a little better given our own recent past. Things that had become familiar to them and part of their daily lives had to be put away in order to follow God's plan for their lives. The turmoil of not knowing what is coming next is something with which we are becoming more familiar. I think of parents as they agonize over the decision about the return to school because many of those parents have had to leave behind things which had become very familiar and strike off into a world for which no instructions or guidance are readily available. I can well understand the feeling of powerlessness that comes over people in that state. I was reminded of a scene in the book "Prince Caspian" by C. S. Lewis where the Pevensie children are in the woods trying desperately to get to the Stone Table in order to give aid to the Narnians. They are hopelessly lost until Lucy spots Aslan and convinces everyone to follow. At one point it appears that there is no way through the forest but as they follow they finally discern a path. As long as they stay behind Aslan their trek through the forest is secure. When they tried to find their own way they met with disaster. "God will make a way" is a phrase I have often heard and it hasn't been until this Summer that I truly understood this. In March, when the restrictions were first announced, I wondered how we would make our way through the pandemic but, because I was really powerless to affect much, I chose to do my best to wait and see what God would do. The way was not easy and there have been times when I have felt very confused -when the 'forest' seemed to have closed around me with no path available. But God will make a way. Like the nation of Israel following God's path or the characters in the Narnia Chronicles following Aslan we need to trust that there is a way. I pray on a regular basis for those people who must decide in the midst of uncertainty so that they may trust that "God will make a way". Many Anglican congregations are making preparations to re-open their buildings for worship and we aren't sure what will happen. If we are following God's direction then I believe we will be OK so those of us making decisions are doing our best to listen to God's direction. My prayer is that as we take our next steps we will be blessed by seeing a pathway open up for us where it did not look like a path existed. May God continue to use this time of turmoil to draw our attention to Him more than our circumstances. Glen +

A prayer

Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send down thy heavenly blessing upon thy Church in this Parish, that all its members may dwell together in unity and brotherly love. Keep far from us all self-will and discord. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness, and enable them faithfully to dispense thy holy Word and Sacraments, to bring again the outcasts, and to seek the lost. Grant that we may so receive their ministrations, and use thy means of grace, that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the advancement of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p, 736)