**Thursday 6th August**

Psalm 46:1-2, 10

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

We looked at this Scripture way back in April, but I wanted to revisit it today, as it came to mind as I watched the terrifying footage of the explosion in Beirut, as the fertilizer warehouse blew up – the earth gave way and fell into the heart of the sea. How utterly terrifying. What a thing to experience. Already there are stories of deliverance, including the church pastor who sent his staff team home early that day – the offices were hit by the blast. And the churches and other organisations that are already rallying to bring relief to those in need. For others, there is a long journey ahead. Some have lost loved ones. There are still some people missing and thousands injured. As we pray for this situation, let’s lift that nation to the God who gives refuge and strength. The God who is an ever-present help in trouble.

*Father, we pray today for the people of Beirut, rocked by this explosion. We pray for help, for rescue, for comfort and for peace. Bless those who are bringing relief and treating the injured. Strengthen their efforts and sustain them. We look to you today Lord. Amen*

