**Wednesday 17th June**

Exodus 14: 13-16

Moses answered the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

Moses was the most extraordinary leader! Sometimes if I feel overwhelmed with the complexity of situation, I think about him. In this particular account, the Israelites had just fled from Egypt, 600 Egyptian chariots full of troops were bearing down on them, the people were complaining like crazy about why Moses had brought them out to certain death, and in the other direction there was the Red Sea! ‘Rock’ and ‘Hard Place’ come to mind!! Oh my goodness! Can you even begin to imagine the pressure that Moses was under at that moment! And yet he is able to give the people excellent guidance: ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today... The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.’ One day I’m going to ask him whether he was feeling still on the inside just then! And then God effectively says to Moses, ‘what are you complaining about?’! It’s like Jesus saying to His disciples in the storm, ‘Why were you afraid?’ God goes on to deliver his people, as the waters of the Red Sea part and they walk to freedom on dry ground.

Through this Coronavirus pandemic each of us have experienced a whole range of emotions, and this particular season in no exception. For some of us there is relief that lockdown is lifting and life can get ‘back to normal’ (whatever that may look like). For others there is a sense of coming out of lockdown into a very uncertain and at times alarming future. What an encouragement to each of us today that in the pressures and uncertainties of life, God is unphased. All we have to do is trust Him – to stand firm and watch how the Lord can make a way where there is no way – how He can split the sea of an unknown future – how he can bring freedom.

*Father, we thank you for this incredible account of Moses leading the people to freedom and a new life. As we live through a time of great change and challenge, we thank you that we can put our trust in you to lead us and to make a way. Help us when we feel anxious or overwhelmed to lean into you and know your peace. We continue to pray for a way forward for us as a nation. We pray protection from a new wave of sickness. We ask for wisdom and integrity for all those in leadership and for the ability to make good decisions. We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to move in power to bring a turning to Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen*

