

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God
How unsearchable are God's judgements
How inscrutable God's ways!

Who has known the mind of God?
Or who has been God's counsellor?
Who has given a gift to God
To receive a gift in return?

For from God and through God and to God are all things.
To God be the glory for ever.

PRAYER led by Simon Pooley

HYMN 15 (STF) The splendour of the King

HYMN 82 (STF) O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS – (a written version of this will appear on the circuit website over the next week. If you would like a printed copy, please get in touch with Tony.)

GENESIS 45: 1-15

HYMN 628 (STF) Faithful one

PRAYERS – Prepared by Alan Pooley and led by Simon Pooley

Lord we thank you for the story of Joseph, written so many years before the coming of Jesus. Joseph, so badly treated by his brothers, and the time came when they met up with him again.

They were so terrified that they thought that this was the moment of revenge. Little did they think that this would be a moment of reconciliation.

Lord there are times when we have thought in terms of revenge for perceived wrongs, doings or insults.

Joseph told his brothers that God had sent him ahead to save lives. How could they have seen that God could take this terrible behaviour and for good to flow from it?

Today we want our nation to be great again and for our nation to be protected from the coronavirus. We think of all who have suffered, who are suffering and

those who are terrified of the risks. All lives are precious, so help us to see this is a worldwide problem that needs all nations to work together.

How can we see anything good coming from the present situation? As God was there in times of famine in Egypt, So God is here today in the midst of our sufferings. We do not see the how, or the why, but give us the faith to see a loving God in our midst.

Today as we remember in our prayers the people in Beirut, so much careless death and destruction, be with those who have lost loved ones, those who are injured, those who feel totally lost. Be with those who are ready to offer help.

As we have thought of Joseph, help us in our lives not to seek revenge but to work for reconciliation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 409 (STF) Let us build a house where love can dwell

BLESSING

May God's blessing be upon you.

Always accepting you, just as you are

and teaching you that in essence you are okay,
in essence you are worthy.

Always healing you, mending you, improving you
that you may become all love.

Always drawing you and all things close

And bringing you, with them, to peace

As they are reconciled united and made one in God.

For from God and through God and to God are all things.

To God be the glory for ever.

AMEN