



BIBLE READING

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Year 'A'
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
2019 – 2020

SEPT 13 2020

Pent 15 [24]

Ex 14:19-31

Ps 114 or Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21

Rom 14:1-12

Mt 18:21-35

SEPT 20 2020

Pent 16 [25]

Ex 16:2-15

Ps 105:1-6, 37-45

Phil 1:21-30

Mt 20:1-16

AFTER PENTECOST

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

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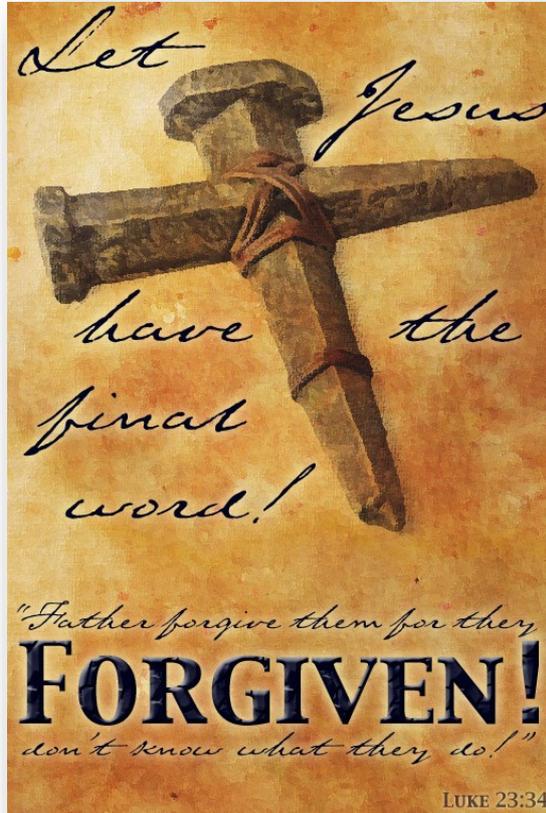
DIRECT DEPOSIT GIVING:

UCA-Ipswich City Uniting Church
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Account: 387923132



REFLECTION

FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE



I believe that to understand today's reading is to understand that the unforgiving servant was forgiven more than 150, 000 years wages for a labourer, by his master. It was an amount that he could never repay. This is a picture of the grace and mercy of God.

As Christians we believe the way God forgives that debt was by becoming one of us in Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, God in Jesus lived your life, died your death, shares the Spirit and his living relationship with the Father with you. You can never repay God's love shown to you in Jesus and you do not need to!

In God forgiving you, a debt has been paid that you can never repay. Yet like the forgiven servant, you somehow either don't believe or cannot see how much God loves you.

So when someone comes across your path who needs to be forgiven by you, of a debt or hurt, you demand payment. This may be so you can pass some of that back to God to begin to repay the already paid debt that you can never repay.

It may also be because you do not trust your master, and want to look after yourselves. If you understand how much God has forgiven you and how much it has cost God, how wide and deep God's love is, then surely you will want to forgive others!

Perhaps your recent history as a church is fertile ground to reflect upon forgiveness. Perhaps there are family members or fellow workers or volunteers who God may be asking you to be merciful toward. Do not be like the first servant in this story. Recognise God's amazing free gift!

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

To what extent do you trust God to forgive you?

In what ways do you find yourself trying to repay God or prove your own value?

How easy do you find it to forgive others?

How does this parable about how much God has forgiven us motivate you to forgive others?

Rev Andrew