**Exodus 15:1-21 –God’s Salvation Song**

**Opening question:**

* What’s your favourite/most memorable song?

**Worship – Colossians 3:15-17**

* Listen to a worship song / read a Psalm of your choice and let it lead into prayers of praise.

**God’s Salvation Song (Exodus 15:1-21):**

**Observations…**

* God as the subject and object of the song – a song to God and about God, he is the sole focus…
* vv1-10: Praising God for what he has done – Enabling the Israelites to Cross the Red Sea, but drowning the pursuing Egyptian army.
* vv13-18: Looking ahead to what the Lord will do – leading the Israelites into and establishing them in the Promised Land.
* Throughout: Praising God for who he is – many of these aspects of who God is are picked up in our Christian songs and hymns today.

**“Issues”…**

* A congregational song, but at the moment we can’t meet to sing together in person…
* A song at a moment of triumph and victory, but is that our experience of this present time?
* The challenge for us currently is more one of “exile” – “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” (Psalm 137:4)

**Responses**

* Lament – biblical, authentic and needed at this time…
* “Living differently”, as a people of hope – 1 Peter 1:3
* Keep our focus on Jesus and the vision of Revelation 5 to “sing a new song”…

**Possible questions:**

* What is it that strikes you most about the God’s Salvation Song in Exodus 15?
* Is it ok that there are a number of verses dedicated to how the Egyptians are defeated and drowned?
* In what ways are some of our contemporary praise songs the same/different to the one in Exodus 15?
* Is it ok for us to sing songs that contain “I”, or is there no place for “I” in songs worshipping God?
* Is singing one of the things Christians are called to do, or just something we like to do?
* Why might it be that “lament” typically features so little in our engagement with God? Do you agree that lament should have its place and, if so, what might this look like for us today?
* At this challenging time, what are the ways in which we, as Christians, can live and respond differently to those around us?
* Give examples of practical ways in which we can offer hope to our friends, families and neighbours…

**Prayer:**

* Spend some time bringing before to God the things you see around you which grieve your (and God’s) heart...
* Pray for each other and any in the fellowship you are aware of who are experiencing a particularly challenging time at the moment.
* Pray into the new national lockdown situation starting this week.
* Pray for the US elections and outcome, peace in France with all the recent tensions and attacks, Turkey in the aftermath of the recent earthquake.
* Pray that the hope of 1 Peter 1:3 might be a reality in our lives and a hope that we can offer to others.