<u>Saturday Opening Worship – Bishop David Altus</u>

Synod 2021 Opening Message - "Living Hope" (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Two weekends ago some of us here today walked through the Barossa Valley as part of Walk My Way – 670 Christians walking 26km together in faith and in love for God and for the vulnerable children of the world. Persevering in the hope of reaching our destination and goal together, leaving no one behind.

I thought of "Synod" which means "walking together" - in the same faith and in God's love for all his children. Persevering together in the common hope of reaching his promised destination, the goal of our faith, and not wanting to leave anyone behind.

Our theme as we come together is "**The hope we have**" (I Peter 3:15), and chapter 1 introduces the hope we have been given to live with.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

This letter was written to scattered Christians just like us - from Ceduna to "the Mount", to the communities in the Centre and all the way to Darwin. Christians who feel like strangers in their own country - ignored and regarded as irrelevant at best, silenced and persecuted at worst.

"Is it worth putting up with?" they wondered. Peter reminds them and us that we have been born again in baptism to live with hope, a "living hope" through the resurrection of Jesus, hope we walk with, breathe in from our living Jesus and his Spirit, and breathe out to the world.

My dad used to say "Where there is life there is hope" (usually at ¾ time when the Maggies were behind at Alberton). I didn't believe him then, but now he is 89 and into "time-on" in his life. "Where there is life there is hope". I believe him now because we share the same faith and hope in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Where the life of the risen Jesus is there is always hope! And where hope in Jesus is present there is always life, even in the face of death.

Normally we receive an inheritance when someone dies and it is of no use to us when we die. Peter says we have been born again into an inheritance to look forward to - "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you". An inheritance that blesses us now and when we die all because Jesus died and rose again.

I hear that Bill Gates' children are not going to inherit \$130b one day. Neither are my children. Bill's children will reportedly only have \$10m that they will have to make do on.

As God's born again, baptised children we stand to inherit everything our heavenly Father has to give. Jesus said it is our Father's will and pleasure to give us the kingdom!

Not only is this inheritance kept secure in heaven for you, Peter adds that you personally are kept safe and secure with, and in God too.

And even more, Peter says we don't just stand to inherit it in the end, we have been born again in baptism to live in it already now, and one, day we will see it with our own eyes. We get to begin to enjoy life in his Kingdom now even as we live with its ultimate hope.

We may be uncertain about the near future but we are "dead and resurrection" certain about our eternal future, and that makes all the difference to how we live in the church and in the world right now. How we face small and big trials, how we live in a world of COVID and cancer and offer hope to a world that sees euthanasia as giving ultimate hope. (Yes I heard that).

God promises that living in Easter hope we can live through anything now, and this passage reminds us that is highly likely will have to. "In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials"

They are not a sign of God's rejection but the opportunity for faith to shine like gold even if we are no longer young and shiny ourselves any more.

- Hope that keeps us from being crushed, overwhelmed and despairing of life
- Hope that enables us to push through and live through whatever happens in church or personal lives
- Hope that enables us to face the agenda in front of us today and in front of the LCA tomorrow.
- Hope that holds to what God promises, not what we might want.
- Hope that doesn't give up on anyone in this world because God doesn't

Don't take that hope we walk together with for granted.

I heard the word "Jesus" on ABC radio while driving to Waikerie two weeks ago. Sadly it was an interview with a woman who had left the Christian church. She felt that her experience of church had been one of legalism. She said that when she left the church she felt she "got her life back". A little later in the interview she said she was "still working on how to die in peace." She told of standing beside her faithful Anglican father 's bedside as he lay dying in the peace of his faith. She said "I wanted to tell him as he died it was going to be OK – but I couldn't".

What she can't do you can – and that is to tell people who don't know how to die and who want to determine when they die, and who want to die in peace that everything can be ok in the end.

What she has given up you still hold to. It's not wishful thinking. It's Easter thinking, Easter faith.

- It's the hope we are born again to live with
- It's the hope we are called to share with everyone
- It's the hope we will one day die in
- It's the hope we will one day enter and enjoy fully forever

All because of the risen life of Jesus, the life we now share in with him and the hope we have because of him.

At the LWSA Convention I heard about a 96 year old member of the church talking to a 6 year old about what dying is to her. She said "When we were born God took a giant breath and breathed it into you". "When you die God takes your breath away..."

Our faith says that one day God will take your breath away – physically, spiritually and in wonder, as you will finally see and enter what we have believed in, hoped for, and kept living with together all along. Meeting Jesus, a new body, reunion with all God's people, a forever life in a place we can hardly imagine, with no tear in sight.

Can you imagine the angels in heaven in charge of "contact tracing"? As each Christian enters glory they trace their contacts. Who were the people this new arrival caught faith from? Their parents? A friend? A pastor or teacher? A Christian in a hospital bed or their visitor? Or from a 96 year old explaining death to her great grandchild? Or maybe they caught faith and its hope from you, as you breathed in and out the hope you have been given io live with by your living Lord, and when given the opportunity you named Jesus as the reason for "the hope we have".

<u>Saturday Closing Devotion – Pastor Valdis Andersons</u>

DEVOTION FOR SA/NT DISTRICT SYNOD

SATURDAY 15TH MAY 2021

(Pastor Valdis Andersons: Lyndoch Parish)

Perhaps some of the most attractive places in Australia are those where wine is produced.

All year round we're surrounded by greenery: in winter, grasses and hills are covered in a lush green, especially after a season of heavy rainfall.

In summer, when the greenery of those winter months has changed to browns and yellows, the rows of vines in the wine regions are thick with green foliage.

Consequently, no matter what the season, it's wonderful to be in an area where some of Australia's best wines are produced.

Look around in whatever direction, and you see greenery throughout the year.

The same applies to all of our wine growing regions.

For the 5th year now it's my privilege to be a pastor (with the LCA) to 2 congregations here within the Barossa Valley. The Barossa is a defined wine growing region, with a history of wine pioneers and German Lutheran settlers dating from just before the mid-19th Century.

It's here that I continually note the change in greenery from winter grasses to that of developing vines with grapes in summer.

Then comes harvest time, and a common question is about the quality of the vintage.

The vines mature throughout summer and then in autumn lose their leaves, but there's continual regeneration, and after the cold and wetness of winter the wonderful green buds of new vines reappear.

Every year we see the same pattern: old vines, or last year's vines, shedding their leaves and being pruned, followed by the new year's growth

Vineyards are a hopeful metaphor early in the Bible. When Noah gets to dry land the first thing he does after God makes a covenant with him is to plant a vineyard. (Gen 9:20)

The text doesn't even tell us he built a house! (Maybe he lived in the ark!)

Why a vineyard? Why not wheat, barley or corn? He needs stuff to eat right away.

Vineyards take a long time and hard work to develop.

I asked a vineyard owner in one of my congregations about "starting a vineyard." After you buy the land, it costs a great deal every year per hectare to cultivate a vineyard, and there's no cash flow for 3 to 5 years while you wait for the grapes to be good enough.

And it's a lot of patient, intensive work.

You need time and labour.

Obviously, this is a long-term investment, a labour of love paying off only over your lifespan. There are many of you here today who know all about how long it takes to establish a vineyard.

It means planting for the long haul,

caring about all the tender vines and grapes, and nourishing and enjoying the vineyard.

If you've never done it, you really need to do a winery tour at vintage/harvest time, so that you get an idea of what's involved in the wine production process, making a new vintage of wine.

Just as the vineyards become new every year, so too our lives are renewed through faith in what Jesus has done for us.

In 2 Corinthians 5: 17 we read

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

God doesn't just wipe off the dirt and put some new clothes on us.

This isn't like one of those TV make-over shows, where people are given a new wardrobe & a change of hairstyle.

Instead, He completely changes us from the inside out, making us into a brand-new person. The agent for this change is Jesus.

It's only through Jesus that this dramatic transformation takes place.

We're not just given a spiritual overhaul; we're not simply recharged.

God through the Holy Spirit created something entirely fresh and unique.

But what exactly does it mean to be 'new'?

Movies are sometimes made about people in a Witness Protection Program

Anyone who has put themselves and their families or associates in danger by helping a law enforcement agency may be eligible for protection.

Such people may be given entirely new identities.

But, if I have a new driver's license or Passport with a new name, does that make me a new person?

What exactly is 'new' if I'm "in Christ" by grace, & through faith?

This is not simply so that you will think differently about yourself.

The true evidence that you are truly a 'new creation' is that you live your life for Jesus and not for yourself.

Furthermore, "old things have passed away."

This is the age of "Me", where the self is considered the most important aspect of life.

But with our new creation the supreme love of self has gone, and together with it self-righteousness, self-promotion, and self-justification.

We look outwardly toward Jesus instead of inwardly toward self.

The old things have died, nailed to the cross.

Our new life is not only the hope we have: it's knowing what it means to really live.

Our spiritual lives, our worship, prayers, building relationship and community, spreading forgiveness and hope, welcoming those at the margins and teaching children and supporting each other, that's vineyard work too.

When you look at vineyards, whether here in the Barossa, or elsewhere in South Australia or the rest of the country, or if you travel overseas, let them be a reminder to you of the newness of life that comes only from Jesus.

To speak to the rest of the world about the Good News of Jesus, we need a healthy vineyard and produce our own good wine.

And we pray:

Almighty and Holy God,

We know that we are not guaranteed a single new day, but we want each that we live to be a day we have lived for your glory and honour and praise. Thankyou that the blood of Jesus has cleansed and redeemed us.

Thank you, Jesus, for making us new!

You raise us to life, and you redeem our lives as we follow you.

Thank you for never leaving our side.

Thank you for letting us find our identity in you.

Thank you that we are your children.

Thank you have made us a new creation, for the former things have passed and the new has come.

In the wonderful name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

Sunday Morning Worship - Bishop John Henderson

Sermon for SA-NT District Convention – Sunday 16th May 2021

Synod theme: The hope we have

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

The first letter of Peter is a pithy, pointed and practical manual for Christians in exile on how to prepare for and survive persecution. In the opening verses Peter says they are 'chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Holy Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood'.

Personally, I have never experienced persecution. At high school I was ridiculed, mocked and bullied for being a Christian. I have experienced indifference, disdain and occasionally open hostility. But persecution? No, not really. Just the casual abuse and petty cruelties people resort to when they run into something they don't understand and maybe are a little fearful of.

Your experience might well be different. Maybe you come from a place where there is real, active persecution of Christians.

Generally, however, Australians have led a charmed life, free to believe and practice what we choose. Those halcyon days could be coming to an end. The Christian voice is still present in society, but muted. We are being intentionally marginalised. While the church still has some privileges, they are rapidly eroding. Statistically, Christianity is the world's largest and fastest growing religion, but across Western society attendances and participation rates are down dramatically. Following the dictates of opinion leaders and voters, governments are increasingly abandoning the Christian moral and ethical bases that have underpinned our society for so long.

And so, we might very well fear for our future. If you are looking for a brief manual to help you with that, you won't do better than 1 Peter. When the apostle wrote it, the church had no privileges, no property or institutions to speak of, and Christians relied on each other for faith and survival. If that's a glimpse of our future, mightn't it actually be a good thing, that we go back to the roots of our faith?

So much stuff that you and your church leadership labour at so mightily these days is not in this Biblical survival manual. Peter does not mention constitutions, incorporation, property ownership, or government lobbying. He seems to have no institutional concerns at all because that's not how he sees the church.

He's concerned with the core of our faith. That is, the praise of God. He focusses on God and what God does. He sets the bedrock from which Christians can face any trouble that might come their way:

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great **mercy** he has given us new birth into a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade.

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through **faith** are shielded by God's power until the coming of the **salvation** that is ready to be revealed in the last time.' [1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)]

Our bedrock is to know and believe:

- 1) In God's great mercy we are born again.
- 2) The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our living hope.
- 3) Our inheritance is in heaven, where it can't be destroyed.
- 4) In this life, God's power shields us through faith.
- 5) Our salvation will be revealed in the last time.

Short, pithy and punchy, just like his description of what this faith looks in practice. Borrowing from Leviticus, he summarises it as, 'Be holy'. He uses positive terms – a sober and obedient life, reverence, and especially having

sincere love. He then uses negative terms – get rid of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander. These are not mere lifestyle choices, but the practice of ridding ourselves of the weakness of sin. Practice holy living—or you won't survive for long.

Peter also uses some Biblical pictures to describe such Christians:

- 1) You are living stones built into a spiritual house
- 2) You are a chosen people
- 3) You are a royal priesthood
- 4) You are a holy nation, called out of darkness to light

He goes on to list the details of a holy life, things like honourable conduct, not indulging the flesh and obedience to the state. He writes about slaves and their masters, and marriage. He sums up this holy living: '...all of you, be likeminded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.'

Wow. This is so much the opposite to what we normally do when attacked. By these standards believers certainly are 'foreigners and exiles' with standards that are different. There's nothing here about defeating or harming your enemies. Peter even says to obey the emperor, who in those days was hardly a friendly figure! Slaves are to obey their masters! That sounds shocking to us! But this is a survival guide. It's not about supremacy or battling principalities and powers. It's not about arming yourself to hurt someone who threatens you. There's no vendetta against the evils of the world. No condemnations of others! And there's certainly no conspiracy theory about those who would do you harm. So how can this be a manual on surviving persecution! Surely, we should fight back. If we follow this guide, won't we be run over, crushed, and broken?

But isn't that what happened to Christ? Didn't he submit to the power of Herod, and Pilate, and the Sanhedrin? Didn't he tell them their only power came from God? They could kill his body, but they couldn't kill the truth. Violence begets violence, so when he was arrested Jesus told Peter, who was only trying to help, to put away his sword. Is the example set by Christ, who did not return evil for evil, but responded to evil with good, really the key to surviving persecution? Yes, Peter insists: 'repay evil with blessing'. If Christians are to suffer, let them suffer for doing good and not for doing evil.

This leads us to the theme text for this Convention: 'But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.' You will answer that question as much with what you <u>do</u> as you will by what you <u>say</u>. Probably more so.

'But in your hearts', he says, 'revere Christ as Lord'. The Macquarie Dictionary defines 'revere' as: 'respect tinged with awe'. Today, people don't know what that means. Ours is an irreverent society in which nothing is sacred except what individuals decide for themselves. But all true Christians will revere Christ. They hold him in awe. In preparing Christians for persecution through holy faith and holy living, the apostle also warns of the danger of taking Christ for granted. Yes, Jesus is our intimate, best friend, but he is also, always the holy, divine Creator and Lord of all that is – true God and true human. He alone is worthy of our respect and awe. Therefore, revere him – he is the holy one, and your only true hope.

To sum up then, your toolkit to prepare for and survive persecution is the hope you have in Christ. That clears away all the stuff that clogs up our attention, distracting us and our church. To survive the coming test, we must strip back to the basics. Faith, a gift by which we praise God and trust in his saving work. Faith that results in holy lives, in which we repay evil with good. Yes, we could lose everything, and we know that one day we will. But in Christ we have more than we could ever possibly dream of.

So, let's celebrate our hope in Christ our Saviour. Let's join together to revere him, follow him and even dare to be holy. Let's not allow all the negative stuff to drag us down. Our inheritance is already kept in heaven. Through faith, God's power shields us. Salvation really is coming – of that we are certain. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Amen.

<u>Sunday Afternoon Worship – Pastor Tim Klein</u>

SERMON FOR SYNOD CLOSING SERVICE SUNDAY MAY 16 2021

HEBREWS 6:13-20 (NIV)

- ¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."
- ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.
- ¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

SERMON: Hebrews 6:19a (TIM KLEIN)

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

Grace and peace to you dear sisters and brothers in the Lord.

The text on which this brief address is anchored is Hebrews chapter 6 verse 19. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

Doctor Vic Pfitzner, in his Hebrews commentary identifies the call to remain 'firm in your hope' as the central lesson for the whole letter to the Hebrews. Hope, like always is a gift of God for us in this sea of sin in which we live.

Let's pray, Lord. Feed us. Comfort, encourage and nurture us in your Word again today. In the name of Christ.

Decades ago, theologian FF Bruce said: "we are refugees from the sinking ship of this worlds order." How true is this today? How much do we need Hope? Rockets and missiles are again being flung about in Israel and the Gaza causing random death and mayhem. Missives of peace displaced by missiles of death. The military Junta in Myanmar still rules in the face of protest – killing their own citizens in their intention to hold on to power in their nation - and the people are becoming militant! Peaceful protest is changing. A beauty queen hit the news. Putting aside her gown and taking up a gun. In India, Brazil, Europe and other place across the world – even here – we are waging war against our mutual enemy COVID.

And what about the Church? We might even feel the world is at war with the church? To quote Bishop John: 'The old ship, she's facing a storm isn't she' Or the quote Eliza, 'there's a hole in the bucket dear Henry.' And we've seen Assistant Bishops Stephen's image of our shifty ship.

Did you read in the news that the Presbyterian Church of Queensland has been placed into receivership? Obviously a leaking ship in need of hope. Modern Australian Media often seems to treat the Christian church with apathy and judgement and perhaps even veiled ridicule on the one hand while on the other Peter Goers is feted as he enjoys the end of Ramadan at the Marion mosque.

And then there's you: You know the winds and waves that wrestle and wear away at you. We will soon return to serve in our home congregations – by God's grace in the new week, where, along with those who love us and who serve gladly by our sides in the Gospel, our friends, family, worship and fellowship will still be there. However, along with the joys and celebration of God present and at work among his people, we will still have to contend with the evil one as he determinedly seeks to wreak destruction among us.

The images of the church as a ship at sea is a good one. Not some luxury liner, safe at the wharf, but out there in the wind and waves. Have you experienced it yourself, or your sisters and brothers, suffering all sorts of 'sea sickness' – succumbing to the accumulated pressures of life? None of us are immune.

Let's go to the Word in Acts Chapter 27 - The Apostle Paul is at sea. The apostle Paul was one who literally served and proclaimed the Gospel at sea – even under pressure – under arrest and being taken to court - in a storm. It's an extraordinary account – read it again in Acts 27. When the storm struck, for days they were in the dark and terrified of the wind driving them into the rocks. They cast out sea anchors to slow them down, in hope to give them some stability in the tossing of the wind and waves. and keep them away from the rocks. Even in the middle off their fear, their sense of hopelessness, Paul proclaims a promise from the Lord to all of them on the boat: none of us will be lost. Finally, they arrive safely on a shore, all of them – the ship breaks up in the surf, but they stumble onto the shore. But even there Paul was not safe. He was bitten on the hand by a viper – and again, the Lord delivered him!

I can identify myself in some of that account: the winds of discontent, sometimes my own, and sometimes that of others — bitten by those I have fed. The waves of apathy or fear that sometimes threaten to overwhelm. Do you identify yourself in the winds and waves from time to time, to a greater or lesser extent? So do we need hope? Yes! We do. Buckets of it.

This word in Hebrews, we are told loud and clear, tells us we have an anchor. Something that gives us stability and keeps us from crashing onto the rocks. That anchor is our hope. We consider this hope from 2 perspectives.

Firstly a hope that is there behind and beneath us – like the sea anchors thrown out behind the boat. The promises of God - We see it in the promises made to Abraham. The Word says: ¹³When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."

What a promise. God promises something extraordinary to an ageing man and his century old child bride. Promises that were given under an oath that God swears on himself – promises to bless them with descendants beyond their imagination. Imagine how important that promise was to Abraham when he obediently prepared his son Isaac for sacrifice. Such deep faith – such a deep hope even in the face of what we might see as despair. And so we too, rest on the promises of God.

There's this wonderful promise in Jeremiah's letter to the despairing and dispersed people of God: I have plans for you – plans to prosper you, plans to give you hope and a future. And the promises of Jesus: I will be with you always. I am with you to the close of the age.

However, this is a double ended anchor. So while it assures us **firstly** that from behind and underneath we are safe: promises of God, that even in troubled waters we have an unshakeable foundation, a rock, an ageless rock that was there in the beginning. It also assures us **secondly** we have a hope that focusses us always up and out on the resurrected one we confess as our

Lord Jesus Christ – who is seated at the right hand of the Father.

As the Word says: We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

This is a place that can never be pillaged, never worn away. No wind or waves can destroy. There is no safer place in all creation than there at the throne of God. This is the place where Jesus constantly intercedes with the Father on our behalf - where the blood of Jesus has washed us clean. So here we are, on a firm and sure foundation, focused forward and beyond where we are. We fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. But better than that. WE ARE CONNECTED! We have a direct line to throne of God. And perhaps, we might realize along the way that even looking back to the promises that Gods has made, our full and finally complete hope lies ahead.

We may never see the realization of God's promises in our lifetime. But just as Abraham was patient as he waited for the fulfilment of God's covenanted promises, we can be patient and live under the covenant. He is our God and we are his people. He has walked the journey in our stead. He has carried our sins and the sins of those we live and serve among – paid the price, and in perfection entered into the holy place where he is seated as our resurrected Lord.

So lets hold on to that hope as we look upward and onward. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. More than that, we accept and believe, test and trust. For we are not alone. We are the Lords, and he is with us.

Back to Hebrews 6

We have run to God for safety. Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us. 19 This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls. In fact, hope reaches behind the curtain[a] and into the most holy place. 20 Jesus has gone there ahead of us, and he is our high priest forever, just like Melchizedek.

Amen

Prayer

Lord, be our living hope. Keep us. Use us to promote and witness to this hope.

And now may God's peace that is way beyond our capacity to fully understand keep all our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

I Lift My Eyes to You Psalm 123

I lift my eyes to you E My Lord in heaven. E Seated on the throne E Ruling over all things E

Have mercy on us, Lord A Have mercy on us, Lord. A E

For we have had enough A more than enough A

of contempt from the proud E

For we have had enough A more than enough A of scorn from the easy crowd E

Our soul cries out to you A
To you we're crying out A

Have mercy on us Lord; B Have mercy on us Lord. B E

We lift our eyes to you E Our Lord in heaven. E Seated on your throne E Ruling over all things E

Have mercy on us Lord A Have mercy on us Lord. A E

Based on Psalm 123 June 2015 (Christchurch) Tim Klein