

The same is true of our deliverance by Christ upon the cross.
The Father turns his face away – darkness descends – but through such an act, deliverance from our enemy, Satan, is made possible. The Red Sea brought an end to the hold the Egyptians had over God’s people.
So, through the cross we are set free from Satan’s hold of slavery!

Just like the shock the Israelites must have felt when the Lord moved from the front to the rear – we can at times know fear rather than faith in testing situations. But remember the Lord did not leave them but was opening up a new way and bringing them into His blessing of the Promised Land.

The Lord leads his people but is also our rear guard too! As Isaiah records twice for us:
“...the Lord will go before you; the God of Israel will be your rear guard” (Isaiah 52.12b)
“...then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard” (Isaiah 58.8b)
We have all we need to advance as a Christian soldier when faced with the enemy and his forces. Thanks be to God who leads us in triumphal procession!

Pastor Andrew

Things are moving...

In the weeks to come we shall be coming back together. There will be some fear – but greater faith (I trust) - to be led by the One who guides and guards us.

Benediction

“Peace to all of you who are in Christ” (1 Peter 5.14b)

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to
CHURCH AT HOME
Sunday 16th August

Share with others by reading through these notes at 11am

Hymn and a Chorus (to sing or read)

Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ the royal Master leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see, His banners go!

*Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod;
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and calling, one in charity.

Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in triumph-song;
Glory, praise, and honour unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages, men, and angels sing.

(Selected verses)
(Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924)

How did Moses cross the Red Sea? (x3) How did he get across?
Did he swim? No! No! Did he row? No! No! Did he jump? No! No! No! No!
Did he drive? No! No! Did he fly? No! No!
How did he get across?
God blew with his wind, puff, puff, puff, puff
He blew just enough, ‘nough, ‘nough, ‘nough, ‘nough,
And through the sea He made a path - That’s how he got across.

(Junior Praise No.83)

Prayer

*Our loving heavenly Father, Glorious God, and King
We acknowledge our need of you in everything. Thank you for your grace in giving us your Son to save us from our Sin. Thank you for your daily mercies in these difficult times. We trust you implicitly. You know our situation(s) and you are the answer to our needs and fears. Grant you blessing on all who seek the good of others and be glorified through the lives that you have made. Bring your healing and help to our friends and family. Graciously, be close to us this day and every day. In Jesus Name, we ask for these blessings. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever, amen*

Bible Verses for today

"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf! He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot – come, let us rejoice in Him" (Psalm 66.5-6)

Read Exodus 14.13-22

"Stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today"

(v13)

"The angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel..." (v19-20a)

"Do you need a push...?"

The crossing of the Red Sea was the greatest deliverance of God's people before Jesus death at Calvary for the sins of the world. The day was / is often reflected upon. It was / is marked by the annual Passover – how God rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians.

As you read Moses' account of events in the book of Exodus you can picture both the **faith** and the **fear** in the event.

Moses had done everything to avoid leadership of God's people but faced with the Red Sea in front of him and the Egyptians behind him – he raises the staff that God had given him, having declared, and reminded himself of God's promise of deliverance. Wow! It was all or nothing – true faith.

Yet, note the fear – as the Israelites show a preference for Egyptian slavery than the impending death they were expecting as they departed! (vv10-12)

I was struck by the verses that speak of God's "movements" in this great deliverance. Having led from **the front**, He moves to **the rear**! The Pillar of Cloud follows suit – above them.

Has God forsaken them – leaving them to their own devices?

Absolutely not! He is protecting them from the Egyptians – going between them and their enemy.

He has made a way ahead for them – but they will need faith to advance – a step into the Red Sea (and the unknown).

The Israelites needed a push!

Like the young Eaglet, we need encouragement to leave the nest and open our wings and fly!

God's care is complete care. He gently leads his people step by step and leads them across the Red Sea bringing about their deliverance. (v22).