



The Timeless Psalms

by Joan Stott

A Call to Worship

Psalm 114, Pentecost 13A [Ordinary 24A] or [Proper 19A] 2011

Almighty God, we gather to celebrate your faithfulness!

Our God has always heard the cries of God's people.

Unchanging God, we gather to rejoice in your mercy!

Holy God, even though we fail you, you never fail us!

Nurturing God, we gather to honour and praise your Name!

Our Generous God meets our needs with grace and blessing!

All praise be to God, our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. Amen.

If used in shared worship, please provide an acknowledgement as follows:

© 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission.

Prayers of Praise

Psalm 114, Pentecost 13A [Ordinary 24A] or [Proper 19A] 2011

Great God of time and powers beyond our dreaming—

Great God of holiness and grace beyond our imagination—

we gather to worship you this day, in this small segment of time and eternity; and in a sacred space that is special to us. We come before you in reverent awe and amazement—that you care for us as individual people amongst millions of other people; that we are nurtured as your beloved children amongst countless numbers of people whom you have loved in times past, and into the unknown future.

Throughout history as we know and understand it, you have offered and led your people towards and into new beginnings—despite many times they have gone astray; despite the many times they have rebelled against you and your ways of peace and justice; and despite the many times they have rejected you and your guiding hand. Compassionate God, you continue to reach out to people in their wilfulness and their human pride, aware that, despite your incredible love for them, they think that they know what is best for themselves and for the world.

Generous and Patient God, today we offer you our praise, our thanks and our worship. We remember with thanks our heritage as your people of faith, and we ask that we may be blessed as we seek to be your faithful people every day of our life, and that we may honour and serve you with our songs and prayers; with awe and reverence; and with joy and delight. Amen.

If used in shared worship, please provide an acknowledgement as follows:

© 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission.

A Personal Meditation

Psalm 114, Pentecost 13A [Ordinary 24A] or [Proper 19A] 2011

God beyond time and eternity, it is hard for me to get my head around the idea that for unknown numbers of years, you have continued to patiently rescue your people from their own foolishness; from situations that they have created; from circumstances that occurred when things went pear-shaped and out of control through humanity's neglect and arrogance. The Bible is full of stories and events where people have strayed from God, and yet through the abundant mercy and loving grace of God, they have been saved.

Creative pause: I can't get my head around God's patience.

The details of all the 'saints' and 'martyrs' that have ever been compiled into lists will demonstrate how fallible they all were, despite their virtues and graces. I take heart from these failings of theirs, because I know that I fail regularly too, and need to be 'saved' by God's grace from yet another sticky situation.

Creative pause: Saved by God's grace from another sticky situation!

I rejoice in the partnership I have with God and with God's creation! But I don't think I've seen mountains skipping with joy, or any hills trembling with delight; but maybe - just maybe - my eyes have not been fine-tuned enough to see these miracles of God's joy and delight that the Psalmist wrote about so long ago.

Creative pause: My partnership with God and with creation.

The partnership I enjoy with God and creation is a bit less spectacular, such as watching roses grow from a bud and watching birds feeding their young; such as celebrating the seasonal changes in the weather; such as the splash of the waves on the seashore, and the fragile shells that are left to be marvelled at. These are my experiences of the miracles of God's delight and joy, God's celebrations.

Creative pause: I experience God's joy and delight in other ways.

If used in shared worship, please provide an acknowledgement as follows:

© 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission.

jstott@netspace.net.au