

Service for Week 17th-23rd August 2026

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, we do not find it easy to live by faith and want some idea of what the future may hold. Help us therefore to look ahead. To seek your guidance in all our decisions, but teach us also to recognize that the future is ultimately in your hands. To trust that whatever life, or death, may bring, you will lead us safely through.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading Exodus 1:8-10 ,1:22-2:10

Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

Verse 22

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live." Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch.

Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water"

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

You may remember from the book of Genesis that the Israelites went to Egypt because there was a severe famine for several years in Canaan. They were refugees hoping to build a better life there but later on they were used as slave labour by the Egyptians. Then when their numbers greatly

increased a new Egyptian Pharaoh took desperate measures and ruled that every boy born to an Israelite woman should be put to death. Our text is the account of the birth of Moses and how he came to be saved.

It was a clever plan devised by Moses's mother and his sister Miriam to float the baby Moses along the river in a papyrus basket near to where Pharaoh's daughter was bathing. But when you think about it was a bit reckless, it could have gone so wrong. The basket could have been caught in a river current and been swept away downstream never to be seen again. Pharaoh's daughter may have rejected the baby and had nothing to do with it for fear of upsetting her father. But such was Moses's mother's love and fear for her baby's life she took that chance.

The account has a happy ending as we know because Moses went on to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt during the Exodus. What do we learn from this account from the beginning of Moses's life and the circumstances around it? The Israelites were living in slavery but we see that God had a plan which was carried out over many years to restore their freedom and change their way of life.

Moses himself was not a king or from a wealthy or important family, but despite this he was adopted by

Pharaoh's daughter. Moses was an ordinary person from an ordinary family but God first of all saved him from being killed. God then enabled him to lead his people through all the trials and tribulations of that long journey across the desert which took many years as we read in Exodus.

In both the Old and New Testaments there are many examples of ordinary people from ordinary walks of life that God uses in his plan for our world. You may perhaps think -well I haven't done very much in my life but I believe we all play a part in God's plan whether we realize it or not. It is played out through our relationships with our families and with the people we meet and the circumstances we have been in throughout our lives.

We can't always see or realize this because, as with the account of Moses and events in the Old Testament it happens over many years and its effect is not only on us but on those who have been around us over the years. Consider whose life you have touched or influenced by what you say and how you are. Could it have been part of God's plan for yours and their lives? **Amen**

Closing prayer

Loving God, I praise you that nothing can ever overcome your purpose which will deliver me from evil and finally triumph. **Amen**

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett