



**25 MAY , 2025**

## Welcome

Welcome to worship this morning,  
we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 25 May, 2025

Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:51-6  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

### Next week 1 June, 2025

Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

## Hands & Feet

Hands & Feet are having their Annual Fund-Raising event this weekend and are inviting us to make a special donation towards their work.

We will be showing a short video during the service which highlights their work. If you would like to support them you can put your donation in a envelope in the offering bag, or donate online via our St George account, BSB 112-879, account number 428 172 081. We will be taking donations for the next two Sundays.

## Help Wanted

With the closure of the child care centre, we are in need of a cleaner to clean the toilets each week and vacuum the church as well. If you know someone who might be interested, or you have a cleaner whom you could recommend, please let Sue know, this would be a paid position.

*Psalm 67 is a poem that tells God how awesome we think God is.*

*It praises and thanks God for lots of things including*

*\*being loving towards us.*

*\*for being loving towards everyone, the whole world and all its people.*

*\*for being kind and fair to us.*

*\*for guiding us*

*\*for making this beautiful world which keeps us alive.*

*\*for blessing us*

*That's six things in one short poem to God.*

*I wonder how many things we could thank God for.*



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### A Personal Meditation by Joan Stott ([http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w\\_resources/easter6c\\_2016.htm](http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w_resources/easter6c_2016.htm))

Psalm 67, (if possible read this with the psalm open in front of you. We will hear this Psalm today in worship. Rev. Gail)

As the people of Israel sang this psalm, are they knowingly calling on God to bless each of them gathered there in worship; and are they asking that the shining light of God's face will smile on every one of them in blessing? Following this very insular concept, the call changes to a universal and all-inclusive concept of God's world-wide blessing. Through many of the psalms the theme of God's special relationship with Israel dominates, and the many covenant promises that God made to Israel; but many of the people of Israel clung to the first part of God's promises and apparently forgot their second responsibility – to lead the world back to God. Psalm 67 was part of their regular reminders about their God-given role.

Do you always expect to be blessed when you worship God?  
How often it is with the psalms that the theme of a psalm is introduced in the first couple of lines and a summing up is done in the last verse! In Psalm 67, the theme is introduced: *"May God be merciful and bless us. May his face smile with favour on us..."*; and the last verse: *"...Yes, God will bless us, and people all over the world will fear him."* Unlike the well-known Aaron's priestly blessing in Numbers 6: 24-26 where Israel is promised God's blessing; in Psalm 67 there is a promise and an affirmation of the universality of God's blessing, God's justice, God's liberating powers, and especially of God's mercy to *"... people all over the world..."* who will *"...sing for joy, because you govern the nations with justice and guide the people of the whole world..."*; and *"...May the nations praise you, O God..."*  
How blessed we are by God's smile of grace and mercy.

In verse 2 of Psalm 67 my usual translation reads: *"...May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere..."* Language and its changes in meaning are a constant challenge, as one tries to understand what is really being said; and in 'religious' terminology they seem more complex.

Words such as *"God's salvation"* that was used more often in older translations, and that has changed in newer translations to *"God's saving power"*. People not used to 'religious' language often say that those words mean nothing to them; however, if one speaks about 'liberation' in relation to the current international scene, that has much more meaning and relevance.

God's deliverance or liberation was a cause for great celebration and joy; as that psalmist encouraged the nations to: *"...Let the whole world sing for joy, because you govern the nations with justice and guide the people of the whole world..."* God's deliverance or liberation is still a real reason to celebrate, and also for us to pray that God's justice and guidance will be recognised and lived out each day by today's people of God in their own space.

Is your own daily living an example of God's justice and guidance?