



PROJECT RECONNECT

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Liturgical Date: Year A, Pentecost 13, 27th August 2023

Presenter Rev Dr John Squires

Focus Reading Matthew 16:13-20

Message 13 minutes 40 seconds “A Destiny Together – continuing the Journey”

Discussion Starters

- 1** What do you know about the Uniting Church’s journey with First Peoples?
- 2** How are you seeking to work constructively with people in society?
- 3** Does your church begin worship with an Acknowledgement of Country? What issues might this raise for you?
- 4** How are you considering the way you will respond to the referendum later in the year?

Lectionary readings for the day

Exodus 1:8-2:10 The Israelites grow in number and to decrease the number all the males are to be killed at birth. A Hebrew woman hides her baby in the Nile, Pharaoh’s daughter finds the child and claims him as her son and names him Moses.

Psalms 124 The psalm proclaims the Lord’s deliverance of Israel from those who would have devoured her. “Torrent” connects the psalm to the name ascribed to Moses.

Romans 12:1-8 In light of God’s salvation for both Jews and Gentiles, Paul argues that the giftedness of each is a basis of inclusion and unity in Christian community.

Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus asks about his identity. Peter Answers, “You are the Christ, the son of the living God”. Jesus affirms this response as divinely revealed and the foundation of the life of the church.

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All Age Message: Rev Dr John Squires

“Nicknames”

Length 3 minutes 40 seconds

Precis of AAM

When Covid came two little friends could no longer see each other at school so they went online and made-up stories – one was about all the animals in the garden they could see and they had a lot of fun giving each one nicknames. They did the same with Simon Peter (The Rock) and Jesus (Brave Adventurer, Happy friend).

Resources: Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 124, page 341

Rev Dr John Squires

John has served in ministry in the UCA since 1980, in a variety of placements in urban, regional, and rural locations. He is currently editor of *With Love to the World* and Elizabeth is a member of the Tuggeranong Congregation in southern Canberra. John shares interests with his wife Elizabeth, in gardening, music, and family history research. John blogs on the lectionary, church issues, and politics:

An Informed Faith (<http://johntsquires.com>).