



**PROJECT RECONNECT**

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**Liturgical Date: Year A, Pentecost 16, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Presenter Rebecca Westphal** *September is 'Seasons of Creation' Month -see AAM*

**Focus Reading** Matthew 18:21-35

**Message** 7 minutes 45 seconds

**"The Verdict is: Forgiven."**

### **Discussion Starters**

- 1** What did you hear of the nature of God in this parable today?
- 2** Recall a time that experienced forgiveness. What impact did this have on you?
- 3** How does your church practice transformative forgiveness?
- 4** Where do you see the need for restorative justice in your community?

### **Lectionary readings for the day**

**Exodus 14:19-31** God went before his people leading them out of Egypt and now moves behind his people to deliver them from the army of Egypt. Israel passes through the sea on dry ground.

**Psalm 114** This Psalmist declares that as Israel went out of Egypt, God's dwelling was among them. The sea, the mountains, and the earth tremble at the presence of the Lord.

**Romans 14:1-12** "We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves." Paul says that those who live and die for the Lord do not pass judgement on one another even if they believe and practice their faith differently.

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**All Age Message: Maria Williams**

**" Outback Sunday"**

**Length** 6 minutes 35 seconds

### **Precis of AAM**

The outback in Australia is very large – in fact 70% of our land is classified 'Outback'! It is important that it is cared for as it sustains so many diverse animals, foliage, plants, birds and fish. It provides a huge water source in the Lake Ayre Basin and the longest river in the country. So how we harvest resources and deal with pollutants is extremely important?

We need to watch for the introduced species and weeds to ensure the land is not damaged. God's provision is to be cared for and for many of the first nations people it is 'home and a wellspring of culture' to be passed to next generations.

**Resources: Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 114, page 331-332**

## **Rebecca Westphal**

Bec is a Mum of 4 children and the Children's and Family Worker at New Lambton Church in the Hunter Presbytery. She is passionate about forming fun and meaningful relationships with young people, and works to help them connect the faith story to the challenges and joys they face in their-day-to-day lives. Bec is a beach-loving bookworm who has fun baking and decorating cakes for family and friends.