

***Pentecost 13 Year A, August 23rd 2026***

***Presenter: Rev Dr Rod Pattenden***

***Focus Reading: Matthew 16:13-20***

**Message:** 8 minutes 30 seconds

"Seeing Jesus"

### **Discussion Starters**

1. What was familiar or unexpected about the images of Jesus referred to?
2. When have you experienced Jesus in an unexpected way or as a seeming outsider?
3. Where might Jesus challenge us to go beyond our safe boundaries?
4. Where might we find the presence of Jesus in the wider community, already there welcoming us?

### **Readings for this day**

**Exodus 1: 8-2:10** The Israelites grow numerous. A new king requests male babies to be killed by the midwives. A Hebrew woman has a son and hides him in the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter finds the baby and takes the child as her own and names him Moses.

**Psalms 124** The psalm proclaims the Lord's deliverance of Israel from those who would have devoured her. The water imagery of 'torrent' connects the psalm to the name ascribed to Moses.

**Romans 12:1-8** In the light of God's salvation for all, Paul invites those of the church to offer themselves as "a living sacrifice". He argues the giftedness of each is a basis of inclusion and unity in Christian community.

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### **Intergenerational Talk**

"The Best"

**Rev Dr Rod Pattenden**

***Length:*** 3 minutes 05 seconds

#### **Precis of IT:**

We live in a world full of competition...expectations of being the best at all things. When cooking, we choose the right size pan or saucepan for what we need to achieve, not necessarily the *biggest* but the *best*. Every pan has a purpose to contribute to the food. Every life is unique and different. God loves each of us as we are, so when we all contribute our unique parts God is at work and loves us all as we are.

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

### **Rev Rod Pattenden**

Rod Pattenden works as Mission Consultant for The Hunter Presbytery and has a special interest in arts and creative spirituality.