

Psalm 65

By great skill and untold strength you fixed the mountains in place; you calm the raging seas and quieten the warring nations.



Above

Mountains in Negev, in the background the Jordan Valley.

Left

The storm before the calm

Below

Warring nations yet to be quietened, Gaza .



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Olive Harvest



*You care for the
life of the planet,
forever tending
the ground;*

*you nourish the
fruits of the
earth,
the crops that
feed your people.*

As I write this reflection it is a glorious summer morning, our small garden is vividly colourful, and our tomatoes are slowly changing colour from green to the lightest of orange. However, too soon to harvest. Psalm 65 is a Harvest psalm reminding us of the marvels and power of creation, but also a reminder that alongside the marvels of creation there continues to be the ever presence of conflict and war which needs to be quietened.

Slowly read through these opening verses, pausing after each box and then listen to **Fill your hearts with joy and gladness.** Click the link below:

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/I8HAPaVefTE?si=TtDtZwq6qbCIT1sp>



**You water and level
the land'**

**Blessing each
season's growth.**

**You crown the year
with your bounty;
Rich harvests are
signs of your
goodness.**

**The open pastures
are lush
And hills are clothed
with joy.**

**The meadows are
covered with sheep
and valleys burst
into song.**

Again, read through these verse slowly and then pause for a while.

The psalmist has given us words of thanksgiving for the world that surrounds us, its bounty and all that contributes to our wellbeing.

Bishop John Pritchard does, however offer some words of caution:

'There is tragedy in nature too. There is drought, earthquake, wind and fire. But these disasters mustn't make us lose the discipline of gratitude for a world of astonishing abundance, created in exuberant colours, anticipated in ravishing smells, and experienced in mouth-watering tastes. . . . Perhaps today we can determine to notice the green leaf, the greenness of the green and the leafiness of the leaf. And give thanks.

Prayer

*May the richness of your creation, Lord,
and the mystery of your providence
lead us to that heavenly city
where all peoples will bring their wealth,
forsake their sins and find their true joy,
Jesus Christ our Lord. (from Reflections on the Psalms)*

We close with King's College Cambridge singing Psalm 65

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/K35KXs5gjiI?si=VOD8G1rZc5JivORH>

Fr Derek

Verses from Psalm 65
New King James Version

Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion;
And to You the vow shall be performed.
O You who hear prayer,
To You all flesh will come.

Who established the mountains by His
strength,
Being clothed with power;
You who still the noise of the seas,
The noise of their waves,
And the tumult of the peoples.

You visit the earth and water it,
You greatly enrich it;
You bless its growth.
You crown the year with Your goodness.

They drop *on* the pastures of the
wilderness,
And the little hills rejoice on every side.
The pastures are clothed with flocks;
The valleys also are covered with grain;
They shout for joy, they also sing.

Verses from Psalm 65
Iona Community

You are God our deliverer
in whom all put their trust;
All who live on earth,
All beyond the horizon.

By great skill and untold strength
you fixed the mountains in place;
you calm the raging seas
and quieten the warring nations.

You care for the life of the planet,
forever tending the ground;
you nourish the fruits of the earth,
the crops that feed your people.

You water and level the land'
Blessing each season's growth.
You crown the year with your bounty;
Rich harvests are signs of your
goodness.

The open pastures are lush
And hills are clothed with joy.
The meadows are covered with sheep
and valley burst into song.

Acknowledgements

Iona Community Worship Book

The Psalms selected are taken from the Psalms used by the Iona Community and are taken from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications 2017. The material can be used for non-commercial use without written permission.

Reflections on the Psalms App (hymnsam.co.uk), also available as a paperback

Reflection by Bishop John Pritchard

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness composed by Timothy Dudley-Smith, (1926-2024) Bishop and hymnwriter

Worship songs and hymns for churches, with views of Wales in the background. Drone footage by Christopher Frost. Permission is given to use these videos for worship in your local church.

<https://youtu.be/I8HAPaVefTE?si=TtDtZwq6gbCIT1sp>

Photograph of meadow and plants of Israel - חן גרציאני-מרוז - Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 -
I don't know the meadows location.

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While I seek to use only reliable sources when using websites, I cannot guarantee that the content on these websites is or will remain accurate or appropriate. I also have no control over the advertisements that accompany the YouTube link, these do seem to be on the increase.

(Derek is an Honorary Associate Priest (All Saints & St James and St Stephen's, Elton) Prior to his ordination he was accredited as a Methodist Preacher in 1968 and served within the Methodist Church until returning to the Anglican Church in the mid 1980's)

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The dual Parishes of Kirklees Valley, Bury, (All Saints, Elton & St James, Woolfold) and St Stephens, Elton are in the Diocese of Manchester.

Vicar of the two parishes - Fr. Samuel Eccleston O.P. (Anglican Order of Preachers-Dominicans)