Exodus –  
A People Moving Forward Together in Hope



Drawn from the Waters

**Opening Prayers**

Reader We gather in the name of the Father:  
**All The eternal God of the past – the present – and the future.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Son:  
**All Who called together a people –  
 to bear his name  
 and to build his Kingdom.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit:  
**All At work in the unfolding of God’s mighty plan –  
 creating and renewing in every age  
 so that each generation builds upon the richness of the last  
 and stands as firm foundation for those to come.**

**Remembering the Journey**

We will hear an extract from the Book of Exodus, telling us a child whose life was saved and who went on to lead God’s people on a journey from an old way of life along a path laid before them by God.

**Thoughts for Reflection**

* What first strikes you about the Reading?

The Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy and Hope) has the following sentence:  
 The future of humanity lies in the hands of those strong enough  
 to give future generations reasons for living and for hoping.

* How might the midwives—Moses’ family—and Pharaoh’s daughter be living examples of the people *Gaudium et Spes* describes?
* How might *we* be living examples of it?

**People drawn from baptismal waters**

Looking at the rights and responsibilities that come with our baptism.

**Exploring the Way**

Having reminded ourselves of the dignity and graces that come with baptism, we now turn to some of the questions in *Forward Together in Hope.* The questions for this session come from the headings: *The Christian Faithful* and *Leadership*.

**Looking at our community’s data**

Information relevant to our reflective questions is presented to help our discussions.

**Reflective Questions**

* How can our community look to sustain and increase the number of people worshipping with us towards 2030?
* What lay leadership is currently available and effective in our community?
* For what other areas of our community life could carefully prepared lay men and women assume responsibility?



**Closing Prayer: *Forward Together in Hope prayer***

**Glory be to the Father -**

**in whom we live and move**

**and have our being.**

**Glory be to the Son -**

**Whose name we bear**

**and who calls each of us**

**to be his disciples;**

**to build his Kingdom**

**and to go out into the world**

**and bear its fruit.**

**Glory be to the Holy Spirit -**

**pouring out grace and guidance,**

**forming us and renewing us.**

**Inspire us all**

**In the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle**

**to live the Gospel,**

**to be open to change**

**and to move forward together in hope.**



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