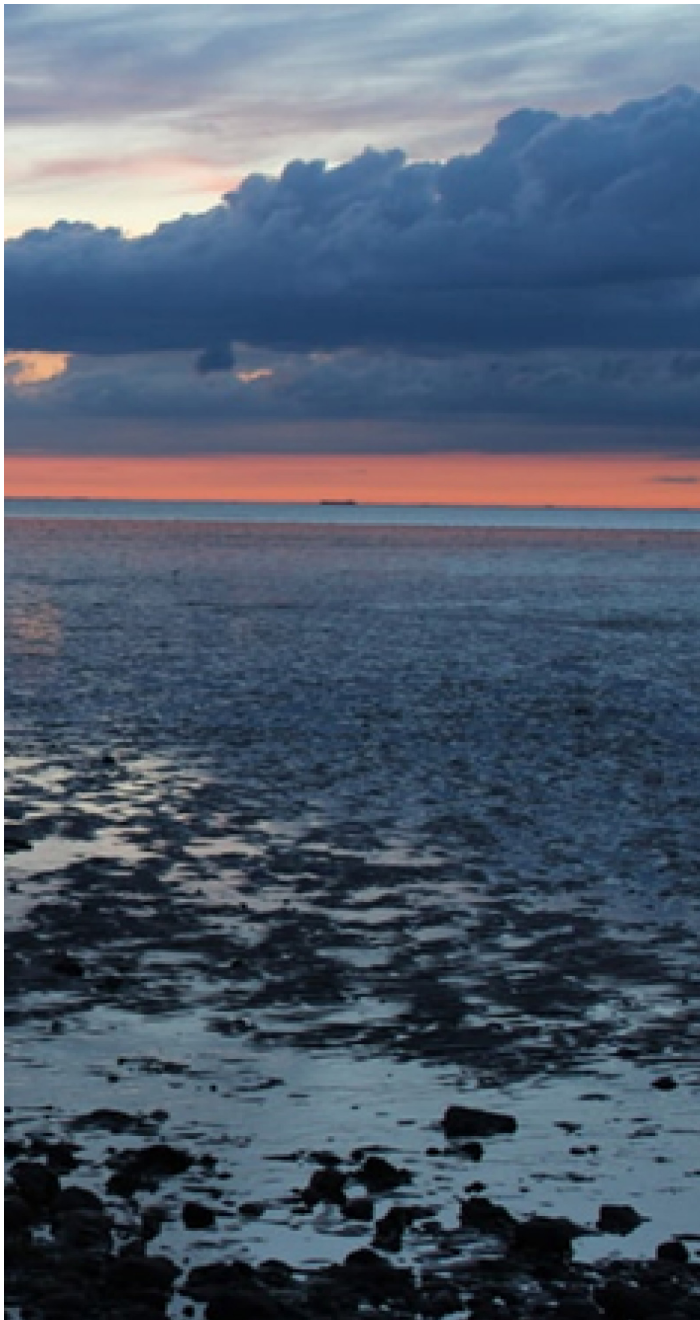


22. Dawn



From each night's darkness emerges a new day's dawn. Every single morning of our lives, the most extraordinary display takes place as the earth turns and transitions. Captured in this photo is low tide at Heacham in West Norfolk, the beach flushed with rosy reflections from the dawn sky. Everything is still, transfixed. Only the light moves.

Though most of us almost never see it, sunrise is differently wondrous every time. And each new dawn ushers in a new and different day, brimming with potential: "*The night has passed and the day lies open before us*" as the Office for Morning Prayer has it. With what will we fill it? How shall we make the most of the chances it offers for change of all sorts?

This daily gift of possibility is not the only thing brought by the unfailing turning of night into day, however. With Hosea's help, the dawn's rhythmic faithfulness becomes a reassuring reminder of the faithfulness of God. In a passage set by today's lectionary, the prophet comforts and encourages: however faithless we are and however torn and despairing we feel, our healing, reviving God is unwaveringly, dependably present. "*His appearing is as sure as the dawn.*" (Hosea 6.3)

Today...

...we thank you, O God, for the daily dawning of new possibility and for your faithful presence with us, whatever lies ahead.

Amen