



Shaping the
fabric of our
lives

Prayer at Midday, Saturday 10th October 2020

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

All are yours
Almighty God, Creator,
the morning is Yours, rising into fullness.
The summer is Yours, dipping into autumn.
Eternity is Yours, dipping into time.
The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers, the lichen on the rocks,
the tang of seaweed,
all are Yours.
Gladly we live in this garden of Your creating ...

George MacLeod

Song: Deep Peace (Salt of the Sound)

Listening to the mystery of your love

Be aware of the stillness of your surroundings and yourself as choosing to share stillness. Know that you are held in being, in the present, by the presence and will of God.

Listen to the still small moment God has called you to share with him.

Silence

In the confusion and noise of living
We listen to hear the mystery of your love

Amid the endless battering of words
You listen and hear our unspoken longings.

Through the barrage of anger and misunderstanding
You listen and hear the pain that we hide.
You hear the grieving of those who are mourning:
You hear the joy of overs and friends.
You hear the cheep of each sparrow in danger:
You hear the bleat of each lamb who is lost.

Silence

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 65

5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

6 By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

7 You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;
**the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.**

10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

11 You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading

Romans 8.18-25

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For

in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

O taste and see that the Lord is good

God, you have given us all kinds of plants
those that bear grain and those that bear fruit.

O taste and see that the Lord is good

You have given us your Word and Law sweeter than honey
sweeter than honey dripping from the comb.

O taste and see that the Lord is good

You have given us manna in the wilderness of our wandering
and our daily bread to sustain us.

O taste and see that the Lord is good

You have given us:
the heavenly smell of roasted coffee
and the green, rooted scent of gardens dripping rain;
the rush of sugar and the smack of saltiness
the touch and feel of summer breezes
and the warm embrace of close friends;
the sound of song thrushes and herring gulls
pianos and choirs, tubas and skirling bagpipes
playing joyous reels at parties

O taste and see that the Lord is good

Neil Paynter

Gospel

Luke 10.38-42

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

Wonder and joy

Lord God, creator and sustainer of life, we stand in awe before the touch of life you have given to our world, and your goodness to us shown in delights we enjoy daily. How did you teach birds such melodious song as pleasures the heart-strings and thrills all our senses?

You are a wonder and a joy to us

How did you teach sunbeams to dance among grime and dust transforming their nature into a curtain of shining stars?

You are a wonder and a joy to us

How did you teach water to dash among rocks, dancing and delighting – exultantly dispersing itself in fronds of white foam, or resting in pools deep, tranquil, fish-laden?

You are a wonder and a joy to us

How did you teach trees to garb themselves in delicate lacework of blossom – and then cast their petals to the wind like flurries of snowflakes?

You are a wonder and a joy to us

How did you teach the wind to howl through caverns, and sooth fevered brows with its cool caress?

You are a wonder and a joy to us

How did you teach the air to sustain life so silently, accommodating itself to the different bodies of creatures?

You are a wonder and a joy to us

You, Lord God, the creator, are also the great craftsman continually shaping the fabric of our lives so that we may speak your glory.

We exalt in you. You are a wonder and a joy to us

We bless your holy name. Amen

Ian M Fraser

Prayers

Song: Turn your eyes upon Jesus (*Salt of the Sound*)

Listen to God welcoming you. In the quietness, bring to him all that lies heavily on your heart.

Silence

Let us pray together now for those who have no one to talk to; no one to turn for support

Silence

Lord hear us and supply our needs.

We pray for all those who are misunderstood and unfairly treated.

Silence

Lord hear us and supply our needs.

We pray for those who are deaf, and all who have difficulty speaking and making their needs known.

Silence

Lord hear us and supply our needs.

We pray for those who feel powerless and ineffectual; those who are denounced for speaking out for what is right.

Silence

Lord hear us and supply our needs.

We pray for all who are learning to speak, and all who are learning to pray

Silence

**Thank you, Lord, for listening to us,
now and at all times.**

**Help us to listen as you do:
compassionately, open-mindedly, patiently,
and with our whole attention.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Song: All is well with my soul (*Salt of the Sound*)

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