

**FINDING A STILL CENTRE**  
In the midst of our busy lives  
A quiet place in the heart of our community  
July 2nd, 2017

**God's Call into relationship: Promise and Transformation**

**Music on arrival:** *Gregorian Chant, Adorate Deum and Da Pacem*

**Opening liturgy**

Holy God – in this precious hour, we pause  
and gather to hear your word –  
to do so, we break from our work responsibilities  
and from our play fantasies;  
we move from our fears that overwhelm  
and from our ambitions that are too strong.  
Free us in these moments from every distraction,  
that we may focus to listen,  
that we may hear, that we may change.

**Amen**

*From, 'Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth' by Prayers of Walter Brueggemann p61.*

**Reading - The Paschal Way**

You said that if I walked your path with you  
I would experience the blossoming of heaven.  
I thought that you meant flowers,  
blooms of celebration strewn  
along the Hosanna road,  
or arranged by flickering candles  
in a church filled with peace,  
or clustered fragrant in a heart  
made into permanent summer by prayer,  
or handed to me by friends  
who valued flowers as much as I did.

You said that if I walked your path with you  
I would discover the sweetness of God  
and I expected to be given flowers.  
But actually you were talking of thorns  
and a cross on the road to dying  
and hands and feet pierced by a truth  
that I did not want to own  
and a feeling of forsakenness  
and a letting go  
and a love so terrible it came  
like a sword in my own struggling heart  
and finally, nothing but you and I  
in the silence of the tomb.

You asked me to walk your path with you  
and yes, you did mean flowers  
but not the fragile things of the day.  
Something of permanent fragrance  
and a beauty that can't be measured  
by a panacea of small comforts.

You were talking of the tomb transformed,  
imprisonment into freedom,  
crosses into wisdom,  
suffering into compassion,  
darkness into light.  
You were talking of your presence  
in a life made larger by your Easter Journey.  
You were talking of resurrections without end.

*From 'Psalms Down Under' by Joy Cowley, p70*

## **Lectio Divina:** Hebrews 8:10-13 NRSV

***This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:***

***I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God,***

***and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach one another or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest.***

***For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."***

***In speaking of 'a new covenant' he has made the first one obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old will soon disappear.***

## **Reflection on passage and time of silence:**

## **Centering Prayer and time of silence:**

**Music for meditation:** *The Treble Voice Choral Music of David Hamilton Vol. 4, 'A Peace Prayer'*

## **Closing Prayer**

Leader: Out of judgement came mercy  
ALL: And God did not abandon his people  
For the love that God bore them, coming again,  
For the hope that God had for them, bearing their pain  
Leader: Out of gentleness came strength  
ALL: And God spoke a word:  
To the outcast and stranger, making them welcome,  
To the sick and despairing, making them whole.  
Leader: Out of freedom came wholeness  
ALL: and God died on the cross:  
For the poor and the prisoner, the sign of deliverance;  
For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son  
ALL: That everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life.

*From Iona Abbey Worship Book p176*

## **Blessing:**

May Holy Wisdom,  
kind to humanity,  
steadfast, sure and free,  
the breath of the power of God;  
may the One who makes all things new, in every age,  
enter our souls,  
and make us friends of God,  
through Jesus Christ,  
AMEN

*From All Desires Known by Janet Morley p48*

