



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
April 1st, 2018

The Passion of God: Grounded in Christ.

Love all Creation, the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything you will perceive the divine mystery in things. And once you have perceived it you will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly more and more every day. And you will at last come to love the whole world with an abiding universal love.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

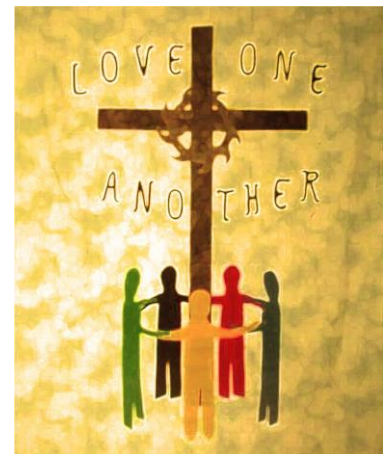
Music on arrival: Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26:11. Adagio

Opening Prayer: Joy Cowley. "The Way of Growth"

I used to think that Advent and Easter were separate events belonging to history and certain times of the year, but they are happening every day, every moment, angels bright as air, chiming: "He is born!" "He is risen" over every budding branch, each fist of fern, making sense of the cycle of beginnings and endings in our lives.

The stories of earth which Jesus loved go on proclaiming his truth for me, Reminding me that death and birth precede each other on the path of growth. For something to be born something else must die. The placenta loses life when a woman gives birth to a child; the sunset is extinguished for a sunrise; and my earlier images of Christ must be crucified in me so that he can fill me with a greater presence.

All : Jesus Christ, Love of God
Thank you for your daily Advent
And Eastering in my life.
I hold my heart out wide
To embrace the deep mystery of your birth and rebirth in me
And I ask for strength to accept
All the dyings in between.



Lectio Divina: Ephesians 3:16-19: (NRSV)

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Centering Prayer and time of silence

Music for meditation: Bloch: From Jewish Life, B55: 1. Prayer

Closing Prayer:

God of Peace, Justice, Compassion

Dear God of peace, justice and compassion:

We pray for peace in your world today.
May there be no senseless killings of innocent people;
may there be an end to torture and the abuse of prisoners;
and may there be a cessation of tribal warfare.

We pray for justice in your world today.
We remember the poor and powerless who cannot defend themselves.
We pray for immigrants, minorities and all who are unjustly condemned.

We pray for your love and compassion in the world today.
We pray for the victims of natural disasters;
for the sick of mind and body; for the homeless, hungry and destitute.
We pray for our fellow Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

Finally, dear God, we ask that all who pray these prayers
may have a love of peace, a commitment to justice,
and deep compassion for those in any kind of need.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Alison M Gibson p275 from *Lifting Women's Voices*

Closing blessing:

As a closing blessing let us say the following words to one another:

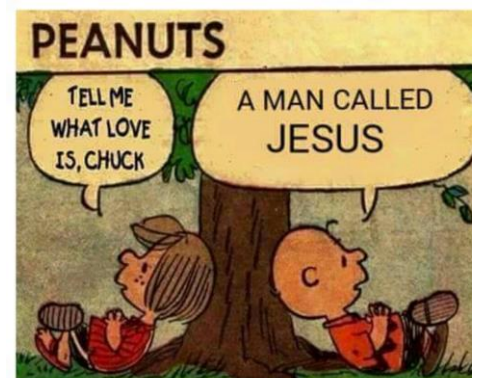
Love one another and you will be happy

It's as simple and as difficult as that. There is no other way.

Amen.

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Bless us O God as we go on our Easter way



“In sum, we are not called to love God **or** the world. Rather, we are called to love God **in** the world. We love God **by** loving the world. We love God **through** and **with** the world. But this turns out to be a kenotic, a sacrificial love”

Sallie McFague