



## FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives  
A quiet place in the heart of our community  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

### The Passion of God: Jesus sets us free

**Music on arrival:** The Lark Ascending (Vaughan Williams )

#### Opening Prayer:

**Leader:** With our theme in mind, let us join in the following prayer.

We believe in light beyond our seeing,  
flowing forth  
from the flame of life in God  
who goes on creating in us  
down through the age of ages

We believe in healing beyond our knowing  
from the Christ  
whose robe hangs close  
to the reach of our hand  
and the pain of our struggle  
beyond the end of time.

We believe in the energy of God's Spirit  
stirring in our being  
with a rhythm of courage and passion,  
moving our feet  
to risk Christ's way again  
as those who are always called to be  
the humble, human witnesses  
to the faithfulness of God.

*"The Glory of Blood, Sweat and Tears". p74*

#### A reading:

##### Tread New Ground

Spirit breathes change  
See the possibilities  
Catch the vision  
With its vistas rolling  
Would you dare tread this new ground?

Excitement fades  
Seeing is a lonely road  
You're so crazy  
Shout years of careful living  
Rock no boats with this new ground.



*Advrider.co*

Learning new trust  
Holding on to heart's vision  
Finding others  
Who've heard the Spirit calling  
"Take the risk, tread this new ground."

Holding a gift  
Daring to reveal such a blessing  
God-given changes  
Laughing in the risking  
Dance with me for this new ground.

**Christine Polhill**  
**(From Lifting Women's Voices) p 183**

**Lectio Divina:** John 5, 2-9 (NRSV)

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

**Centering Prayer and time of silence**

**Music for meditation:** Lux Aeterna (Set to Nimrod by Elgar)

**Closing Prayer**

Guide and friend  
of every seeking heart,  
you take upon yourself  
all that burdens our lives:  
our days of doubt,  
our divided hearts,  
our physical weakness  
and that fear of the future  
which is often our companion.  
And you transfigure them,  
freeing us of all  
that weighs us down.  
Lord of the perplexed,  
enable us today to rediscover  
your amazing truth-  
that in your strength  
we truly can begin to walk anew  
with lighted step and clearer vision,  
moving from the shadows  
into the clear flowing waters  
of your healing, gentle grace.

*"An Iona Prayer book" Peter Millar p 53*

**Closing Blessing:** Loving God,  
you have led us to this place,  
not to shield us from heartache  
and the pain of human life,  
but to heal us and inspire us,  
to gently redirect us,  
bless us and guide us as we go from here  
that we may see the world as you do  
and love it with your love. AMEN



*Photo thanks to Jane Mead*

Let it go. Let it out.  
Let it all unravel.  
Let it free and it can be  
A path on which to travel.

*The Prayer Tree: Leunig*