



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
December 2nd 2016

The Passion of God: God's Grace made known in Christ

Music on Arrival: Beethoven: Symphony No. 9. Op 125 in D minor. 111. Adagio

Opening Liturgy:

Leader: We gather in this community
in this sacred space.
We gather at the end of the year.

Let us bring our whole selves
all that we are, recognizing
The spark of the Holy, which resides in us all.

We Pray together (as the candle is lit):

We light a light in the name of God
who creates life,
in the name of the One
who sanctifies all of life,
in the name of the
Spirit who is the Fire of Life.

Amen

Opening Reflection: Behold The Christ

It was easy to see You
in holy faces, holy places,
God made flesh in a mother's voice,
or in the gentle hands of a nurse,
or the smile of a grandfather
or the laughter of small children.
Every presence of love and beauty
proclaimed your advent.

I needed eyes sharpened by suffering
before I was able to see You
in the pain of human poverty.
The man who stared at a prison ceiling,
the alcoholic mother, the hungry child,
the old woman who died alone in her flat,
the young victims who grew up
to become abusers themselves,
the people who were in despair,
at their inability to make changes.



'Puer Nobis Nascitur' Glynis Porter

When I could look at them
through the experience
of my own crucifixions,
I realized they all looked back at me,
with your eyes.

It took much longer to see You
in places of affluence and power,
in parliament or at the stock exchange,
at the helm of a luxury yacht
or residing in a summer palace
surrounded by material wealth.
But now I discover that in these places
You have the same eyes as the poor,
the disabled, the imprisoned,
the same eyes as the grandfather,
the children, the hospital nurse,
the same eyes that I see in the mirror.

And I begin to understand a little,
Just a little, of the truth
Of who You are.

Joy Cowley, Behold the Christ p.18, Psalms for the Road



The Catlins, photo by Liz Farrands

Prayer:

May we know you Oh Christ-Source of life. For you are the visible likeness of the God of love. You are in all that exists. In You love fully dwells. Amen.

Drawn from Phil Dyer in Awakening the Spirit.

Lectio Divina: John 1, vs 14-18. (NRSV)

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Time of Silence: Lectio meditation

Centering Prayer and time of silence

Music for meditation: John Rutter: Gaelic blessing (Deep peace) by Libera.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Prayer:

I will sing of your love this day oh Lord,
for the person who knows it not,
for the person who has forgotten how,
for your world that often refuses direction,
and for me who yearns to know it more.
I will sing of your love forever.
Amen

Iain Gow and Nat Tate p.89 Be Still

Reflection:

*The peace produced by Grace is a spiritual stability too deep for violence —
It is unshakeable*

-Thomas Merton

Blessing:

Bless you oh God of all holiness
Bless you oh God of deepest intimacy
Bless you oh God of love.
As we end this year, may you bless us all
In the name of our Creator, Saviour
And Breath Divine
Amen

