



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
September 2nd, 2018
The Passion of God: Taking up our Cross

Music on arrival: Violin Concerto in D, Op 77:2. Adagio. J Brahms.

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Come to us,
as one who walks the way of ordinary people.

People: Come to us,
as the One who weeps over the city.

Leader: Come to us, as the One who deeply understands
the paradox of life which rises from death.

People: Come to us,
in a language of grace that we may approach you in vulnerable hope.

Leader: Give us new life,
if the old has been destroyed in us.

People: Give us openness,
if we have closed our eyes to your future.

Leader: Give us courage, if we tread this land
in fear of bringing our gifts.

**People: Give us wisdom, when we forget to listen to the learnings
of history.**

when we see the breadth of your imagination
expressed in the differences between us.

**People: Differences of race and culture,
differences of history and journey,
differences in our experience of you.**

Leader: Bind us together as those
who feel your love under our feet
in the warmth of this, our holy ground.

**People: Dance within our life, O Spirit of God,
that we may be transformed by your eternal passion for making all things new.
Amen.**



A Window in Dedham Parish
Church, Essex
Photo by J Mead

From The Glory of Blood, Sweat and Tears (Dorothy McRae McMahan) p67

Reading: My Cross

Lord, I'm not sure I know what it means,
To "take up my cross" and follow you.
Frankly it doesn't sound very inviting,
And it's counter culture to all
I have been taught.

Lord, I want to discover life in all its fullness,
But I'm not at all sure about denying myself.
So God, continue to love me as I make up my mind
And be there for me when I find the courage to respond.

From "Be Still" Iain Gow and Nat Tate



Photo by Aaron Burden

Lectio Divina: Mark 8:34-36. (NRSV)

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?"

Centering Prayer and time of silence

Music for meditation: Flute sonata in E-Flat Major, BWV 1031:11. Siciliano. J.S. Bach

Closing Prayer: The Path to your door

The path to your door
Is the path within:
Is made by animals,
Is lined by flowers.
Is lined by thorns,
Is stained with wine,
Is lit by the lamp of sorrowful dreams:
Is washed with Joy,
Is swept by grief,
Is blessed by the lonely traffic of art:
Is known by the heart,
Is known by prayer,
Is lost and found,
Is always strange,
The path to your door.

From "A common Prayer", Michael Leunig



From "A common Prayer",
Michael Leunig

Blessing

Bless you God of the road that is costly,
Bless you God of the voice that whispers
"Come".
Bless you God with the hand that beckons me
Bless you God with the heart that
draws me in.
Amen

From "Be Still" Iain Gow and Nat Tate

Reflection:

JESUS

Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.
MARK 8.35

BUDDHA

With the relinquishing of all thought and egotism, the enlightened one is liberated through not clinging.
MAJJHIMA NIKAYA 72.15
From: Jesus and Buddha, The Parallel Sayings. Ed: Marcus Borg. P.58