



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
February 3rd 2019

Jesus and Prayer: Prayer Within

Music on arrival: Jacques Offenbach: Harmonies des bois, Op:76.2 (Jacqueline's tears).

Opening Prayer:

One Single Yes

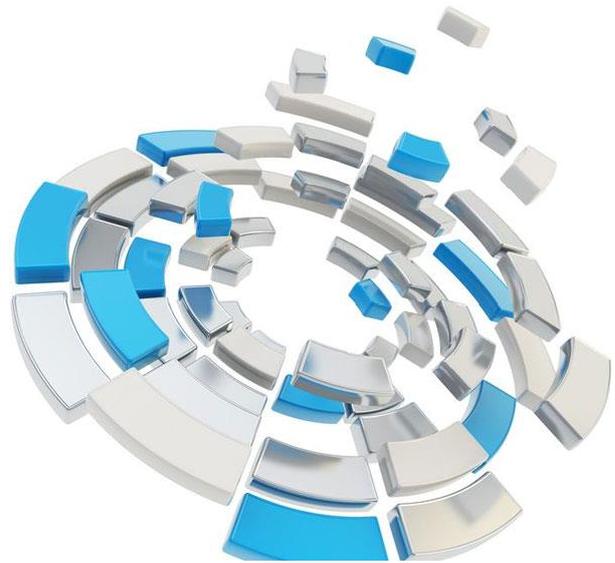
You came as a hidden, gentle presence
into our dark world,
and changed it forever.

Come into my world, O Christ,
and heal it from the inside.

I draw together the fragmented parts
of my daily life
and offer it all to you.

May everything I am become
one single Yes to you.

"Lifting Women's Voices-Prayers to Change the World" p304, Angela Ashwin



Recovery Software

Reading:

"Don't call me, God. I'll call you."

Well, I don't mean it to be that way.
It's just that prayer tends to be on my terms,
when I've got the time and inclination,
and even then, I do all the talking,
as though God didn't already know
what was in my heart.

Yes, I'm aware that conversation
is a two-way business
but I guess it's easier for me to talk
because I've got a bit of a hearing problem,
and God's voice is so terribly quiet
that listening can be hard work.
It means tuning into a huge silence
In order to pick up a whisper or two.



Wallpapers Vista

I'm not good with silences.
They make me feel disconnected.
I want to shout down the line:
"Are you working? Is anybody there?"

I think I need some practice,
still times to sit with silence
and feel comfortable in it
so that I recognise the voice when it comes.

And who knows? Maybe one day I'll discover
that the best part of prayer
is to let God do most of the talking.
"Aotearoa Psalms" by Joy Cowley No. 30



Currys

Lectio Divina: Matthew 6:5-6 (NRSV)

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Centering Prayer and time of silence

Music for meditation: Ave Virgo (based on a theme from Mozart's Clarinet concerto).

Closing Prayer

A Collect for Semi-Arid Times
Eternal and Wise God,
Whose nature is to bring forth
Abundant fruit from desert places,
Salvation out of failure,
Continue to look with mercy on your creation,
That we, whose semi-arid lives
Give little space for your Spirit to grow,
May awaken to your redeeming work of compassion,
Rejoicing that the desert can bloom.
"Lifting Women's Voices" p315 Terry Garley



QUIPNIP

Blessing:

We pray together...
Bless us O Christ as we go from here,
that we may walk in Your way,
extraordinary in our hope,
outrageous in our trust,
committed to say yes to You and to life,
in the faith that you will be with us for all time, Amen

*The Spirit, who can be realized by the pure in heart,
who is life, light, truth, space.....
who is beyond words,
who is joy abiding-
this is the Spirit dwelling in my heart.
Chandogya Upanishad, III.XIV.2*