



## FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives  
A quiet place in the heart of our community  
October 7<sup>th</sup> 2018

### The Passion of God: The Power of Faith

**Music on arrival:** Cello Concerto in B flat - Hayden

#### Opening Prayer:

Leader: We gather here in your presence, God.

ALL: **In our need,  
And bringing with us the needs of the world.**

Leader: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

ALL: **And you know by experience  
What human life is like.**

Leader: We come with our faith and with our doubts;

ALL: **We come with our hopes and with our fears.**

Leader: We come as we are, because you invite us to come;

ALL: **And you have promised never to turn us away.**

*Iona Abbey Worship Book p 90*

#### Reading:

Dear God,

I need to see myself  
as you see me.

My own vision is fragmented.

I try to divide up my life  
and reject those parts of me

I consider to be weak.

I waste time and energy  
in the battle of self against self  
and Lord, I always end up the loser.

Dear God

help me to see myself  
as you see me.

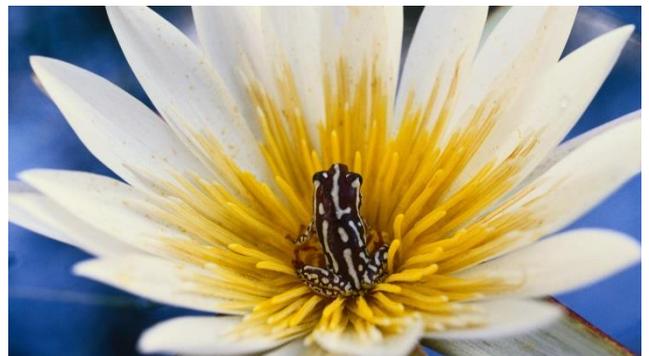
I forget that you made me just as I am  
and that you delight in your creation.

You do not ask me to be strong:  
you simply ask me to be yours.

You do not expect me to reject my weakness,  
merely to surrender it to your healing touch.



*The Telegraph*



Dear God  
when I can see myself  
as you see me,  
then I will understand  
that this frail, tender, fearful, aching, singing,  
half-empty, shining, shadowed person  
is a whole being made especially by you  
for your love.

*Aotearoa Psalms No27 Seeing-Joy Cowley.*

**Lectio Divina:** Mark 10: 46-52 (NRSV)

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

**Centering Prayer and time of silence**

**Music for meditation:** Allegro Appassionato - Saint-Saens

**Blessing for Making a Difference:**

May our hands be Christ's in the world,  
reaching out to bless, touch and heal  
all we have feared to touch  
and all who need to know love and tenderness;

May our bodies be Christ's in the world,  
beautiful, full of creative energy and joyful sexuality,  
unique yet made in God's image and likeness;

May our feet be Christ's in the world,  
walking gently over the face of creation,  
sustaining and nourishing our Mother Earth  
and all her creatures;

May our life be Christ's life in the world,  
taken, blessed, and offered to all,  
bringing justice and peace  
under the dazzling rainbow of God's love.

*Lifting Women's voices, Prayers to change the World, p353*

*Reflection*

*There have been times of  
spiritual blindness,  
When error and pain have  
distorted our sight,  
Beautiful presence, You were  
there with us  
To show us how darkness can  
turn into light.*



*Nature Wallpaper Desktop*