



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

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

Jesus and Prayer: Holy Spirit as Life Force in Us

Music on arrival: Clarinet Quintet in A Major, Op.108,K.581:11. Larghetto (Mozart)

Opening Prayer:

Leader: O God of life, of all life and of each life,
we lay our lives before you.
We give our lives to you,
from whom nothing in us is hidden.

Women: You are before us, God, you are behind;

Men: You are around us, God, you are within.

Leader: O God of life,
you know the secret thoughts of every heart.

Women: We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt;

Men: We bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow.

Leader: O God of life, you are in the light, and in the darkness.

Women: We bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance;

Men: We bring the hope that is in us, and the despair.

Leader: O God of life, O generous Spirit,

ALL: RENEW US WITH YOUR LIFE,
TONIGHT, TOMORROW AND ALWAYS. AMEN.

'God of Life', Iona Abbey Worship book, p181

Lectio Divina: John 15:5-8 (NRSV)

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Reading: IN THE VINEYARD

This year will bring a good vintage.
We've had a cold winter, hot summer,
and fat branches of dark pinot grapes
hang under the leaves, ready for picking.
No machines here. Not for this vine.
Each bunch, picked by hand, is laid
gently in the basket, a promise
of fine and exquisite taste.



Slowly, we move along the rows
under the hot Marlborough sun.
Wind combs the dry yellow grass
on the Wither hills, and a lone hawk
circles high above our heads.



Images from Pixabay

In this part of the world
the grapes are picked in Lent,
a time when knowledge of the True Vine
is never far from the day's routine.
We are the branches, those ropes of wood
hanging between the eternal Vine
and the fruit ripe for harvest.
There is no separation.
The fruit from the eternal Vine,
gifted through its branches,
will go out to a thirsting world
bringing the fine and exquisite taste
of God.

What a feast!
What a celebration!
Come and See-Joy Cowley No 51 p108

Reflection:
Every moment and every event of every
life on earth plants something in our soul.
Thomas Merton (*adapted for inclusive
language*)

Centering Prayer and time of silence

Music for meditation: Als die alte Mutter Op.55.4 (Dvořák)

Closing Prayer

Leader: O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation,

ALL: WE GIVE YOU THANKS

ALL: For your love for us, wild and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation:
to the sap that flows,
the blood that pulses,
the heart that sings.
WE GIVE YOU THANKS

Leader: For your love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain,
wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion.

ALL: WE GIVE YOU THANKS.

ALL: For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us,
and shown us how to serve.

Iona Abbey Worship Book, p141

Blessing:

Bless to us, O God,
the moon that is above us,
the earth that is beneath us,
the friends who are around us,
your image deep within us,
AMEN

Ioana Abbey Worship Book, p134