



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
December 1st 2019

The Early Church and Prayer: The Inseparable Love of God

Music on arrival: "Arwen's Vigil" and "A Thousand Years" (The Piano Guys)

Opening Prayer: **Reliable love.**

How we all need this from our birth
On into our childhood.
We need this from our parents, You, and others.
Anchor us in your reliable love, Lord,
So we in turn may genuinely love others.

'Two prayers for today' Bruce Gilberd, November 4

Reading:

We look with uncertainty
Beyond the old choices for
Clear-cut answers
To a softer, more permeable aliveness
Which is every moment
At the brink of death;
For something new is born in us
If we but let it.
We stand at a new doorway,
Awaiting that which comes...
Daring to be human creatures.
Vulnerable to the beauty of existence.
Learning to love.

Anne Hillman From Life Prayers, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon (No 362)



A germinating Geranium

Lectio Divina: Romans 8: 35, 37-39

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Centering Prayer and time of silence

Music for meditation: "Ode to Joy" based on Beethoven's 9th symphony, performed by Julio Iglesias

Closing Prayer: Channels of New Life

Lord, you have loved us with a love that frightens us
Because we know that you are calling us not only to receive it,
but also to demonstrate its power in the whole of our lives.
Lord, we commit ourselves to always seek
to be channels of new life, hope and joy
and to allow you to touch and change every corner of our hearts and lives.
Fill us with the Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful to the commitment
we have made.
Amen.

500 Prayers for all occasions, David Clowe, p.469

Blessing:

Blessed are you, God, Source of all goodness. The boundless beauty and unlimited love of your presence bless me at every moment of my existence. May your goodness radiate from me and bring the blessing of your loving touch to each person with whom I share life.

The CUP of OUR LIFE, Joyce Rupp, p.122

Just as what brings heat
makes things expand
so it is the gift of love
to stretch hearts wide open;
it is a warm and glowing virtue.

St John Chrysotom cited in From Lost in Wonder, Esther De Waal, p.80



Vatican Sand Nativity Scene, BBC News