



## FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives  
A quiet place in the heart of our community  
July 7th 2019

### Jesus and Prayer: Listening to the Spirit within

#### Reflection:

Try to enter your inner treasure house and you will see the treasure house of heaven.  
For both the one and the other are the same, and the one and the same entrance  
reveals them both.

The ladder leading to the Kingdom is within you, that is, in your soul.

Words of Issac of Syria.

#### Music on arrival: **I Giorni ( Ludovico Einaudi )**.

#### Opening Prayer

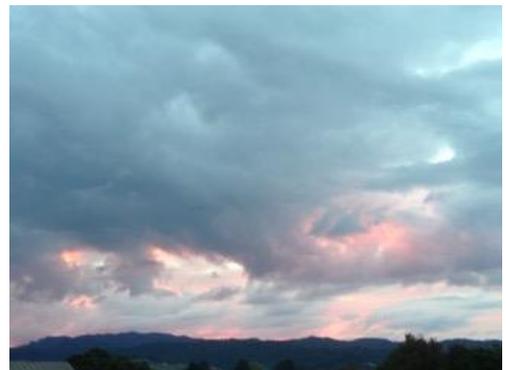
You, who are my life.  
You listen to the whispers of my heart.  
My longing rises to you like incense,  
my prayer as an evening offering.

In stillness,  
I pause with you  
to reflect on the journey of this day:

on what I have done  
and left undone;  
on the people I have met  
or avoided;  
on words I have spoken  
or should have said;  
and on the affections of my heart...

Forgive me,  
where I have strayed from your companionship  
to seek gain only for myself.  
Strengthen me in my resolve  
to live with you more closely.  
For you are my rock,  
in you I find my home.

Let me rest this night, once more in the safety of your shelter.



Sunset  
Brian Smith

## **Lectio Divina:** Matthew 13:31-33 (NRSV)

He put before them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it is leavened."

## **Reading: O Life-giving greenness of God**

One of the most wonderful concepts that Hildegard (of Bingen) gave us is the term 'veriditas' or greening power. For her, creativity and greening power are intimately connected. She believed that Christ brings "lush greenness" to "shrivelled and wilted" people and institutions. She celebrates the Divine Word in this fashion: "The word is all verdant greening, all creativity." For Hildegard, the Holy Spirit is greening power in action; salvation or healing is the return of greening power or moistness. It is the power of Springtime, a fruitfulness, a germinating force that comes from God. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is celebrated for being the viridissima virga, the greenest of green branches; she is a branch "full of the greening power of springtime." The source of Hildegard's rich concept of greening power is her homeland, the lush green Rhineland where vineyards lace the hills and where later she was to build her monasteries.

"Birthed from the Womb of God" p.61 compiled by Rev Dorothy Harvey

## **Centering Prayer and time of silence**

## **Music for meditation: "Deep peace" (Irish blessing composed by John Rutter)**

## **Closing Prayer**

Living God, eternal Spirit,  
Let your bright intoxicating energy  
Which fired those first disciples  
Fall on us  
To turn the world again.

"The New Zealand prayer book" p.604



Springtime

## **Blessing**

May God, who offers us  
the wholeness of creation,  
the tenderness of Christ,  
and the challenge of the Holy Spirit,  
bless and direct us,  
challenge and change us,  
and keep us close.  
Amen.

"Lifting women's voices" p383, Alwyn Marriage

All things must come to the soul from its roots, from where it is planted. Saint  
Teresa of Avila