



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
August 2nd 2020

Living in God's strength – Faith and New Vision

Music on arrival: Miserere Mei by Gregoria Allegri

Opening Prayer: A Litany of Healing

Let us pray alternately:

A: God of grace, you nurture us with a love deeper than we know, and your will for us is healing and salvation; We praise and thank you, O God.

B: God of love, you enter into our lives, our pain and our brokenness, and you stretch out your healing hands to us wherever we are; We praise and thank you, O God.

A: God of strength, you fill us with your presence and send us forth in love and healing among those we meet; We praise and thank you, O God.

B: Touch and heal our minds from darkness, confusion and doubt, and fill them with your light; Hear us, O God of life.

A: Touch and heal our hearts burdened by anguish, despair and isolation, and set us free in love; Hear us, O God of life.

B: Give us liberty from old hurts and painful memories; Come with your healing power, O God.

A: Fill us with peace in our grief from separation and loss; Come with your healing power, O God.

B: Work through all who share in your ministry of healing, and renew us in compassion and strength; Come with your healing power, O God.

A: Restore to wholeness all that has been broken by our sin; Come with your healing power, O God.

B: We lift before you all who have died in the Covid 19 Pandemic. Receive them more and more into your joyful presence. Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we entrust ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Leader: Let us pray together:

O God, in you all darkness is turned to light and all brokenness is made whole: Look with compassion on us and those for whom we pray, that we may be recreated in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

'A litany of healing' Marilyn Geist in Human Rites compiled by Hannah Ward
and Jennifer Wild adapted, revised and shortened p152

Reading: Lord, Please let me See

Maybe he was on Highway One
with his bedroll and backpack,
jerking his thumb at the traffic.
Or she could have been at the checkout
in the supermarket, dreaming
that some beautiful young man
would rush in and rescue her.

Who they were, doesn't matter.
The fact is, we are all on some kind
of road, leaning blind into the future
and praying, Lord let me see.

Very gently he reminds us
that there is no tomorrow or yesterday,
only the eternal present moment.
If our minds are in the past or the future,
we live like ghosts, blind beyond reach,
for it is only in the here and now
that he waits with his healing touch,
to open our eyes to the light.



Photo Abel Tasman walk-Mary

Lord let me see. *'Come and see' Joy Cowley p72*

Lectio Divina Matthew 20:29-34 (NRSV)

Context:

An account of a healing of two blind men in the Gospel of Matthew with slightly different features. In Chapter 9 the men are admonished not to tell others that Jesus healed them, yet in this passage they are simply said "to have followed him". However, both stories support Matthew's main purpose, which is to demonstrate to his Jewish readers that Jesus is indeed their Messiah.

You may choose to read the passage 3 times with 5 minutes between each phase. First phase: read with focus on the passage and context. Second phase: meditate on how the passage speaks to you and your life. Third phase: contemplate, pray, and rest in the presence of the Holy.

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" Jesus stood still and called them, saying, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

Centering Prayer and time of silence *You may choose a sacred word or phrase to repeat rhythmically and repetitively, to lead you into a silence of up to 20 minutes.*

Music for meditation: Gabriel's Oboe by Ennio Morricone

Closing Prayer: The Carrier and the Carried, redefining disability

Let us pray together:

Loving God,
We acknowledge that, regardless of health,
attitude, appearance, or status,
we are people marred by imperfections.
Grant us the strength to manage our infirmities
with wise caring, good humour, and gratitude.
Help us use personal experience to become
more attentive to matters spiritual.
Save us from falling victim to self-centeredness
a malaise that preys upon people of all abilities
that left unchecked is more soul destroying
and more binding than any physical condition.
In the loving of others may we find perfection. Amen

*As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.*

*The Human journey' in Life Prayers by
Denise Levertov p357*

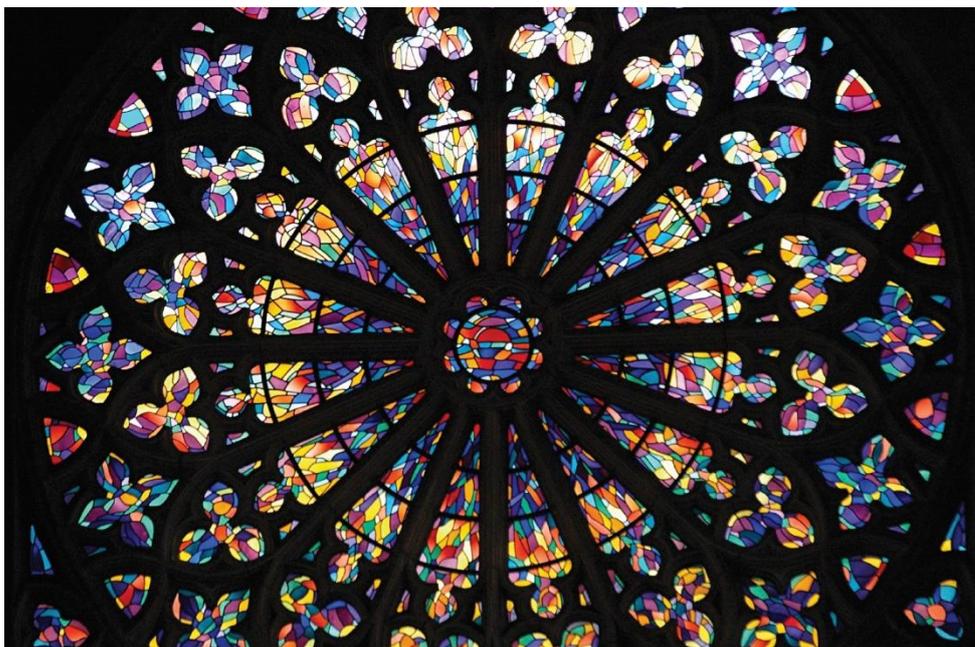
Blessing:

Leader:

For the God who walks on wounded feet and heals with wounded hands,
For the God who stands beside us wounded, all-knowing and all-loving,
For the God of imperfections,

**All: We go into our wonderful and imperfect world to reflect God's perfect love,
and in so doing, claim what it is to be truly human.**

Closing Prayer and Blessing from Trish Harris and Rosalie Sugrue in 'A Child Laughs, prayers of justice and hope',
Maria Mankin and Maren C. Tirabassi. P37 and 38



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