



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
October 4th, 2020

Living in God's Strength - God's goodness through all ages

Welcome: Again, as we are separated by space and perhaps time, we meet knowing God is with us.

Music on arrival: <https://youtu.be/vsINANZ6Riw>

The Lord's prayer in Swahili. This video speaks of the awesomeness of God. The lead singer discovers his "treasure" (Matthew 13 v.44) in a field and is moved to worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Compassionate God, when my season is joy,
let me celebrate and be thankful;
When my season is pain,
let me discover you healing me;
When my season is doubt,
let me know the seedling of faith stir again;
When my season is loneliness,
bring a friend to me;
When my season is full of loathing,
take my bitterness away;
When my season is loss,
show me you have not forgotten me.
Help me God, to discover you in all seasons of my life,
Amen

"Prayers of Doubt", In Be Still, Iain Gow and Nat Tate p45 adapted



Pixabay image

Reading:

A Cycle

A habit that continues
And thrives through war and peace
Infecting our universe
A cycle of poverty
Poverty of living in the absence of mercy
Of living in the want of acceptance
Of living in the void of laughter
Poverty that closes our hearts
To the need of others
To the battle for mere existence

Where Souls struggle
Poverty that blinds our senses
Our view of right

Takes us to a self-righteous place
A cycle of poverty
That survives
And spreads like fungus
In the dark, stinking corners of our minds
Until an exchange makes a crack
Light creeps in the fissure
And change begins
A cycle that is centuries old
Finds a new path
A path of planting support,
Nourishment, safety and God
A new cycle

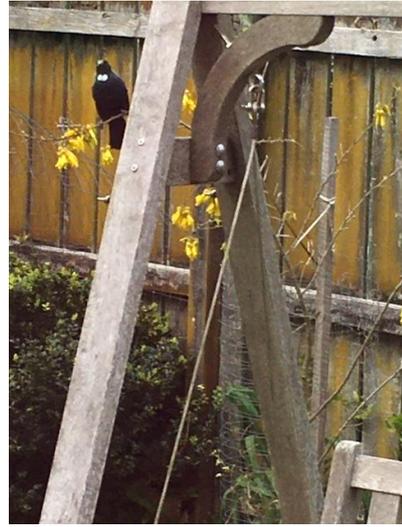


Photo Liz

“Sanctuary,” Arlene L. Drennan and Laura Martin in *A Child Laughs, Prayers of Justice and Hope*, Maria Mankin and Maren C. Tirabassi p175

Lectio Divina: Psalm 145:8-13 abridged and adapted to reflect inclusive language (The Message)

Background to this Psalm: The book of Psalms reflects many aspects of the religious experience of Israel. The living spirit of Israel’s religious life shines particularly through these hymns, which bring before God a people’s hopes, aspirations, troubles and fears, and reasons for confidence. Psalm 145, like a great number of the Psalms is attributed to David. It is likely that the book as a whole is a gathering of many minds, over many centuries. The spiritual depth and beauty of the psalms mean their use in worship and prayer have persisted down the centuries, in both Judaism and Christianity.

As a whole Psalm 145 is a hymn speaking of the character of the God of Israel. Verses 8-13 praise God’s love and compassion, God’s kingship and enduring nature.

God is all mercy and grace—
not quick to anger, is rich in love.
God is good to one and all;
everything he does is suffused with grace.
Creation and creatures applaud you, God;
your holy people bless you.
They talk about the glories of your rule,
they exclaim over your splendor,
Letting the world know of your power for good,
the lavish splendor of your commonwealth.
God always does what she says,
and is gracious in everything she does.

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.

