



## FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives  
A quiet place in the heart of our community  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**Hope and trust for 2021: Universal truth and path**

**Music on arrival:** Adagio for Violin and Orchestra in E Major. Mozart

### Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, amidst the turmoil of this life may we be steadfast in the following of the way of your Son

Fill our hearts with the generosity of your love that we may know the goodness of all you create, and gift us with the wisdom of your spirit that in all things we may be true:

Bless us with appreciation for the diversity of creation and erase our fear of the unknown,

Grant us breadth of vision and  
protect us from narrowness of sight

Strengthen us with the courage to seek understanding and  
release us from our need to control

Gift us with passion for your justice and  
preserve us from difference

Make us agents of your mercy and  
guard us from harshness of word or action

Give us grace to reach out to those in need, that all may be  
transformed through your love. **Amen**

**Adapted from "Lifting Woman's Voices", p353 Susan N Eaves**

### Reading:

I enjoy looking at other people's roads.  
They are different from mine  
and yet basically the same.  
They all facilitate journey  
from here to there, self to other,  
and they are all inter-connected.



### **Reflection**

Let me begin by describing how I define "Christian." It's very simple. A Christian is one who lives out his or her life relationship with God within the framework of the Christian tradition, just as a Jew is one who does that in the Jewish tradition, a Muslim is one who does that in the Islamic tradition, and so forth. I don't think God cares whether we are Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, and so forth. All our paths of relationship with God are paths of transformation.

**In 'Days of Awe and Wonder', p.223 Marcus Borg**

The fact that I love my own road  
with its comfortable landmarks  
and familiar faces, doesn't restrict my appreciation  
of someone else's neighbourhood.

And if I go into another area  
and walk a mile or two with some-one else,  
I return as a larger being,  
The love of my own road is deepened,  
the appreciation of other roads is widened  
and I am blessed in the knowledge  
that all roads lead to God.

**Roads, No 12 in Aotearoa Psalms by Joy Cowley**

**Lectio Divina:** John 14:1-8

### **Reflection**

We are called not just to reflect on the name of  
God but to encounter God in that name  
When we do this, this name becomes like an  
inner spiritual cell.  
When we live in the presence of this great  
Name we gradually become the one God wills  
us to be

**Solitude and Love of the world, p.38. Thomas  
Merton**

### **Context of passage**

This passage (John Chapter 14: 1-8), is recorded by the author, (the disciple John), as taking place in the last week of Jesus' life as Jesus prepares his friends for his death and resurrection. John's purpose is to make clear to his readers both that Jesus was God, and that Jesus had come in human flesh. This intent is most evident in this text.

### **Lectio reading**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going! How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also from now on you do know him and have seen him."

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

**Music for meditation:** L'heure exquise. Hahn.

**Closing Prayer:** Prayer for Our Community. Richard Rohr

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts longings for the healing of our suffering world. **Please add your own intentions** .... Knowing , good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking , we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen