

DAY 8

“So that my joy may be in you, and that joy may be complete”

Colossians 1:15-20 In him all things hold together

Mark 4:30-32 As small as a mustard seed.

MEDITATION

The hymn to Christ in the epistle to the Colossians invites us to sing the praise of God's salvation, which encompasses the entire universe. Through the crucified and risen Christ, a path of reconciliation has been opened up; creation too is destined for a future of life and peace.

With the eyes of faith, we see that the kingdom of God is a reality that is very close but still very small, hardly visible – like a mustard seed. However, it is growing. Even in the distress of our world the Spirit of the Risen One is at work. He encourages us to become involved – with all people of good will – in tirelessly seeking justice and peace, and ensuring the earth is once again a home for all creatures.

We participate in the work of the Spirit so that creation in all its fullness may continue to praise God. When nature suffers, when human beings are crushed, the Spirit of the risen Christ – far from allowing us to lose heart – invites us to become part of his work of healing.

PRAYER

Thrice-holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us.

We thank you for your presence in us and in creation.

May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it,
with love.

In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world
where justice and peace flourish, for the glory of your name.

QUESTIONS

- How much does your life declare God's salvation? What view of God would others have from how you live?
- What could our churches and community work together to make justice and peace flourish in your locality?
- How do our churches care for God's creation? What further actions could we take?

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th-25th January 2021

DAY 1 “You did not choose me but I chose you” John 15:16a

The call of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-4

The call of the first disciples

John 1:35-51



MEDITATION

The start of the journey is an encounter between a human being and God, between the created and the Creator, between time and eternity.

Abraham heard the call: “Go to the land I will show you”. Like Abraham we are called to leave that which is familiar and go to the place that God has prepared in the depths of our hearts. Along the way, we become more and more ourselves, the people God has wanted us to be from the beginning. And by following the call that is addressed to us, we become a blessing for our loved ones, our neighbours, and the world.

The love of God seeks us. God became human in Jesus, in whom we encounter the gaze of God. In our lives, as in the Gospel of John, God's call is heard in different ways. Touched by his love, we set out. In this encounter, we walk a path of transformation – the bright beginning of a relationship of love that is always started anew.

“One day you understood that, without your being aware of it, a yes had already been inscribed in your innermost depths. And so you chose to go forward in the footsteps of Christ.... In silence in the presence of Christ, you heard him say, ‘Come, follow me; I will give you a place to rest your heart.’”

[The Sources of Taizé (2000) p. 52]

PRAYER

Jesus Christ,

you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship
and lead us to a life that is ever more complete.

Grant us the confidence to answer your call
so that we may be transformed
and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world.

QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been aware that God was asking you to begin a new journey in your life? – whether moving to somewhere else, or ‘changing direction’ in some way? How did you respond?
- What are some of the stories for the ‘new’ members of your community, whether they have crossed a county boundary or journeyed across continents to get there?

DAY 2

“Abide in me as I abide in you”

Ephesians 3:14-21 May Christ dwell in our hearts

Luke 2:41-52 Mary treasured all these things

MEDITATION

The encounter with Jesus gives rise to the desire to stay with him and to abide in him: a time in which fruit matures.

Being fully human, like us Jesus grew and matured. He lived a simple life, rooted in the practices of his Jewish faith. In this hidden life in Nazareth, where apparently nothing extraordinary happened, the presence of the Father nourished him.

Mary contemplated the actions of God in her life and in that of her son. She treasured all these things in her heart. Thus, little by little, she embraced the mystery of Jesus.

We too need a long period of maturation, an entire lifetime, in order to plumb the depths of Christ’s love, to let him abide in us and for us to abide in him.

Without our knowing how, the Spirit makes Christ dwell in our hearts. And it is through prayer, by listening to the word, in sharing with others, by putting into practice what we have understood, that the inner being is strengthened.

“Letting Christ descend into the depths of our being ... He will penetrate the regions of the mind and the heart, he will reach our flesh unto our innermost being, so that we too will one day experience the depths of mercy.”

[The Sources of Taizé (2000) p. 134]

PRAYER

Holy Spirit,

May we receive in our hearts the presence of Christ,
and cherish it as a secret of love. Nourish our prayer,
enlighten our reading of Scripture, act through us,
so that the fruits of your gifts can patiently grow in us.

QUESTIONS

- The Bible tells us very little about Jesus’ youth and early adulthood, when he seems to have lived an ordinary life in Nazareth. How are you conscious of God’s presence with you in the everyday things of life?
- In our Wells churches how do we nurture children and young people to walk with God in their everyday lives, and how could we do this better?
- What does the churches having a ‘presence’ together in the community look like in our area?

DAY 7

“I and the vine, you are the branches” John 15:15a

1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:21-23 Is Christ divided?

John 17:20-23 As you and I are one

MEDITATION

On the eve of his death, Jesus prayed for the unity of those the Father gave him: “that they may all be one ... so that the world may believe”. Joined to him, as a branch is to the vine, we share the same sap that circulates among us and vitalises us.

Each tradition seeks to lead us to the heart of our faith: communion with God, through Christ, in the Spirit. The more we live this communion, the more we are connected to other Christians and to all of humanity. Paul warns us against an attitude that had already threatened the unity of the first Christians: absolutising one’s own tradition to the detriment of the unity of the body of Christ. Differences then become divisive instead of mutually enriching. Paul had a very broad vision: “All are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God” (1 Cor 3:22-23).

Christ’s will commits us to a path of unity and reconciliation. It also commits us to unite our prayer to his: “that they may all be one. . .so that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21).

“Never resign yourself to the scandal of the separation of Christians who so readily profess love for their neighbour, and yet remain divided. Make the unity of the body of Christ your passionate concern.”

[The Rule of Taizé in French and English (2012) p. 13]

PRAYER

Holy Spirit,

vivifying fire and gentle breath, come and abide in us.
Renew in us the passion for unity
so that we may live in awareness of the bond that unites us in you.
May all who have put on Christ at their Baptism
unite and bear witness together to the hope that sustains them.

QUESTIONS

- What part of your tradition is vital and life giving and what can you learn from what is vital and life giving within other Christian traditions?
- What could be the impact of greater unity between the churches?

