

Lectionary
Readings for every day
You Select!



in the HCUC

No. 13

For 10 Dec 2017

Dear Friends

On coming home!

When our family came back from our summer holidays it was like a ritual. When the children were younger the car doors burst open. A rush to be first inside. Each seeing the house and its things in a fresh excited chatter. Then off to their own room. They were home! Someone has said that a holiday gives the opportunity to come home with a fresh appreciation.

What does coming home mean for you? Not just from a trip overseas ... but from work; after a long walk; after visiting friends; from hospital? What does “home” mean for you? Am I right in thinking it probably means things like security, comforts, an essential consistent base where I belong? Most of these are unseen values. How important home is to us can happen if we lock ourselves out, or suddenly realise we left the house unlocked, and wonder if we will find a trashed home.

Let’s come at this another way.

In some old paintings and books, daily life was portrayed as “the wheel of life”. It was depicted as a big wooden spoked dray wheel. On it people clung as they went UP, held tight at the top, and as the wheel turned they hung on as they headed on their DOWN. The really hard thing was that the people were caught between the road with all its bumps, stones, pot-holes, that jar, hurt and shake us up. It might be from a bad day in the office, unwelcome news, trouble or illness at home.

There is another aspect. If you can learn to ride more on the hub than on the rim—wow! For the hub/axle is the still point in a turning world; and daily life becomes a smoother ride.

Now one more image—a surprise discovery I made one day I dropped a round and hard object into a steel bowl. The “ball” rolled up and down, then round and round and finally settled silent, still. It was as if its busy action finally ceased because it had reached “home”. I still see this as an example of home coming—hard to achieve because we live such busy action-filled lives. Life doesn’t help us with much time to allow the resting and feeling of being at home to happen.

Sincerely - Lester

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 11 December:	85:7-end	Isa 35	Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday 12 December:	96:1,10-end	Isa 40:1-11	Matt 18:12-14
Wednesday 13 December:	103:8-13	Isa 40:25-end	Matt 11:38-end
Thursday 14 December:	145:1,8-13	Isa 41:13-20	Matt 11:11-15
Friday 15 December:	1	Isa 48:17-19	Matt 11:16-19
Saturday 16 December:	80:1-4, 18-19	2 Kings 2:9-12	Matt 17:10-13
Sunday 17 December <u>Advent 3</u>			
Ps 126; Isa 61:1-4,8-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 18 December:	72:1,2,12,13, 18-end	Jer 23:5-8	Matt 1:18-24
Tuesday 19 December:	71:3-8	Judg 13:2-7,24-end	Luke 1:5-25
Wednesday 20 December:	24:1-6	Isa 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Thursday 21 December:	31:1-6	Eph 2:19-22	Luke 1:39-45
Friday 22 December:	113	1 Sam 1:24-end	Luke 1:46-56
Saturday 23 December:	25:3-9	Malachi 3:1-4, 4:5-end	Luke 1:57-66
Sunday 24 December <u>Advent 4</u>			
Ps 89:1-4,19-26; 2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Christmas Day			
Monday 25 December:	96	Isa 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Tuesday 26 December:	119:161-168	Acts 7:51-60	Matt 10:17-22
Wednesday 27 December:	117	Exod 33:7-11a	John 21:19b-25
Thursday 28 December:	124	1 Cor 1:26-29	Matt 2:13-18
Friday 29 December:	96:1-4	1 John 2:3-11	Luke 2:22-35
Saturday 30 December:	96:7-10	1 John 2:12-17	Luke 2:36-40
Sunday 31 December <u>Christmas 1</u>			
Ps 148; Isa 61:10-62:3; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40			

GETTING HOME

We've had a look at some aspects of what "home" means to us on a daily basis, and some symbols aimed to help us go along more smoothly each day. All of that was on the level of the seen, the visible and the describable. Now to go deeper to the ultimate— 'our eternal' - the dimension that is invisible, beyond description and never wilts or fades.

Are there any hints of this dimension in nature? The opening words from a short chapter on nature by Eckhart Tolle— "We depend on nature not only for our physical survival. We also need nature to show us the way home."

This is the point where Lester's writing ended ... Continuing his thought, we (his family) found these two passages by Eckhart Tolle which he had underlined:-

"Bring awareness to the many subtle sounds of nature—the rustling of leaves in the wind, raindrops falling, the humming of an insect, the first birdsong at dawn. Give yourself completely to the act of listening. Beyond the sounds there is something greater: a sacredness that cannot be understood through thought."

and again

"Watch an animal, a flower, a tree, and see how it rests in Being. It Is itself. It has enormous dignity, innocence and holiness. However, for you to see that, you need to go beyond the mental habit of naming and labelling. The moment you look beyond mental labels, you feel the ineffable dimension of nature that cannot be understood by thought or perceived through the senses. It is a harmony, a sacredness that permeates not only the whole of nature but is also within you." - *Our home—LJR*

The essence of Getting Home is getting to that which we have always been, as quoted by Pema Chodron and recorded in one of Lester's notebooks:-

"Meditation isn't about trying to throw ourselves away and becoming something better. It's about befriending who we are already."

- and always have been, and always, always will be. LJR

This is the final Shalom, No. 13. "13" has a spiritual and symbolic meaning of 'the death to the matter and the birth of the spirit, and the passage on a higher level of existence.'

TRIBUTE TO LESTER JOHN REID

Once upon a time ... almost 90 years ago, there came an upwelling in the vast ocean of human consciousness, which manifested in a beautifully formed wave. It had risen from deep down, close to the source, so was imbued with the purest love and the clearest vision.

As it began its journey, powered from below, it grew in stature and went about setting its course, straight and true, never wavering far from its destined path. Travelling the often confused seas, many other waveforms were encountered, but such was the character of this wave, others were never avoided but rather gently embraced and gathered in, to continue onward in a similar direction. No other wave was tossed aside, and all that joined were uplifted and their horizons greatly expanded.

The crest of this wave sparkled and shimmered, and twinkled with a humour, amongst the dancing bubbles of light and effervescence, creating great delight and inspiring the other waves, such that many remained long enough to attain the view from the top as they were carried along the broad shoulders. The burbling and murmuring of the head waters spoke of the conviction of the correct course, and because of the empathy and acceptance of this wave for all others, the way ahead was clearly seen from their combined elevated vantage point.

And so the journey continued over many years, stories within stories, and the wave absorbed all the knowledge and experiences encountered along the way, until there was a dawning realisation that the depth of this accumulated knowing was drawing it to merge once again with the underlying source of power that it had always been a part of.

So as the energy of the wave dissipated, it peacefully and serenely stilled itself and settled gently, to become once again a part of the great expansive and unlimited ocean, its destiny fulfilled.

This is the story of a
Loving, Joyous Reverberation
Or simply ... L.J.R.

By Geoffrey Reid (1st November 2017)

Dear Readers

Lester has loved writing Shalom all these years. It gave him a channel for exploring, expressing and sharing his deepest thoughts. On his behalf, we his family, bid you a final "GO WELL".