

Lectionary
Readings for every day
You Select!



in the HCUC

No. 6

For 17 May 2015

Dear Friends

This is all about prayer and poetry. Naturally it cannot be All there is to be said for, or about, either prayer or poetry. I hope to offer you a handful of tiny words, short poems and small prayers. I start with Leonard Feeney's poems.

* God to some sticky stuff
Not yet alive, in a hive.
Said "Come! Hum!
Glorify me.
Be my bee, and buzz, as I bid."

* The little muslin moth whose food is
flame and cloth.
Flitting in rapid flight from linen-chest to
light
In its intense desire
To be dissolved in fire.

And sure enough,
It was! And it did!

* Snails obey the Holy will of God
slowly.

Poems are easier to remember than prose. You can learn them in a day and say them to yourself when you lie awake in the night. It is often in the night when it is not only dark in the room but dark inside us that we need to reach for short prayers, strong words or deep truths.

Listen to an unknown Jewish prisoner who wrote or scratched on his cell wall:

**I believe in the sun when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.
I believe in God, even when he is silent.**

Listen, hear, remember some of the lines from the Hebrew poets—songs we call psalms:-

**The Lord is my light and my help: whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life: of who shall I be afraid?**

Or times when there is a confusion of emotions and wild thoughts. Then the deep down sanity of our inner being needs to speak to our mixed up and troubled small self:-
Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage. Yes, wait for the Lord.

Or from Psalm 46:
Be still, and know that I am God.

Sincerely - Lester

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 18 May:	68:1-6	Acts 19:1-8	John 16:29-end
Tuesday 19 May:	68:9,10,18,19	Acts 20:17-27	John 17:1-11
Wednesday 20 May:	68:27-28	Acts 20:28-end	John 17:11-19
Thursday 21 May:	16:1,5-end	Acts 22:30;23:6-11	John 17:20-end
Friday 22 May:	103:1-2, 11-12,19-20	Acts 25:13-21	John 21:15-19
Saturday 23 May:	11:4-end	Acts 28:16-20, 30-end	John 21:20-end
Sunday 24 May <u>Pentecost</u>			
Ps 104:24-34,35b; Acts 2:1-21; Rom 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 25 May:	32:1-8	James 3:13-end	Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday 26 May:	50:1-6	James 4:1-10	Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday 27 May:	79:8,9,12,14	James 4:13-end	Mark 10:32-45
Thursday 28 May:	33:1-9	James 5:1-6	Mark 10:46-end
Friday 29 May:	149:1-5	James 5:9-12	Mark 11:11-26
Saturday 30 May:	19:7-end	James 5:13-end	Mark 11:27-end
Sunday 31 May <u>Trinity</u>			
Ps 29; Isa 6:1-8; Rom 8:12-17; John 3:1-17			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 1 June:	113	Rom 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-49, (50-56)
Tuesday 2 June:	112	1 Pet 1:10-16	Mark 12:13-17
Wednesday 3 June:	25:1-8	1 Pet 1:18-25	Mark 12:18-27
Thursday 4 June:	116:10-17	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 6:51-58
Friday 5 June:	146	1 Pet 4:7-13	Mark 12:35-37
Saturday 6 June:	103:1,8-13	Jude 17,20-25	Mark 12:38-end
Sunday 7 June <u>Pentecost 2</u>			
Ps 138; 1 Sam 8:4-11(12-15),16-20(11:14-15); 2 Cor 4:13- 15:1; Mark 3:20-35			

OPENING IN TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE SACRED

Many people—too many—say they don't know how to pray. It often turns out that they are referring to praying in public, or offering a prayer in a small group. The truth is that everyone can pray, and does pray at some time, often without calling it prayer.

These days more and more people find the idea of a super human being sitting in a corner of the vast universe listening to the words and thoughts of 7 billion people, too unreal to accept. And yet we want the personal touch. Being human we look for some connection that fits our human form—a face to see, a hand to touch, — hoping that there is an eye to see us, or an ear to hear us. These are all outer symbols of our inner spirit. The real issue is how to know and experience some wise, understanding, loving reality greater than our sense of smallness and frailty.

How about a Divine Hug?

It makes more meaning today to talk of the unseen spiritual dimension and of our being able to “see” the timeless in time. As an example remember Brother Laurence who learned how to “see”, ie be aware of the eternal in the kitchen, as he peeled potatoes, scrubbed pots, burned the toast. It wasn't just a place of pots and pans. It was a place where the underlying life force flowed and he was aware of it.

Keeping in touch with this divine, eternal, brilliant and blissful quality or dimension is the function of prayer.

The results of prayer are experienced in a thousand different ways—in the lives of people; in all religions and no religion, all cultures and in all ages.

What is experienced? Briefly, very personal and life-enriching experiences.

One writer lists the following:

Prayer anchors us, is a daily support, a warm invitation, a way of renewal, healing, surprising joy, peace beyond belief, calmness in the midst of trauma and chaos. This description ‘catapults us out of the mindset that prayer is a system of bargaining or begging, or simply praising.’

PRAYERS AND POEMS FOR DAILY LIFE

- * Prayer is never outside everyday life.
To pray in and around the ‘ordinary moments’ of everyday life is to bring the sacred home—quite literally.
(- Dowrick)
- * God help us to live slowly;
To move simply;
To look softly;
To allow emptiness;
To let the heart create for us.
Amen
(-Leunig)
- * What does the Lord require of you—
but to do justly,
to love mercy and
to walk humbly with your God.
(-Micah 6:8)
- * Let the beauty you most love be what you do.
There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground.
(-Rumi)
- * Lord, three things I pray:-
To see You more clearly,
To love You more dearly
To follow You more nearly.
- ⊙ Where mountains rise to open skies
Your name O God is echoed far,
From island beach to Kauri's reach
in water's light in lake and star.

Your people's heart,
Your people's part
be in caring for this land,
for faith to flower,
for aroha,
to let each other's mana stand.
(S E Murray)
- ⊙ God give us rain when we expect sun.
Give us music when we expect trouble.
Give us tears when we expect breakfast.
Give us dreams when we expect a storm.
Give us a stray dog when we expect congratulations.
God play with us, turn us sideways and around.
(- Leunig)
- ⊙ The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.
(- Kierkegaard)
- ⊙ Changed from glory into glory—'till lost in wonder, love and praise.
(-Wesley)