

**Lectionary**  
**Readings for every day**  
**You Select!**



in the HCUC

**No. 4**

**For 3 April 2016**

**Dear Friends**

*And Jesus said: "Once upon a time there was a man who had two sons ...".* In issue No. 3 we spent some time considering the journey of the younger son. He isn't given a name in the story. I suspect we can all put our name there. Son or daughter, it doesn't matter. We are on a journey. We usually see it as beginning at birth and ending at death. Most of the time we are concentrating on the outside of the journey. We are learning how to crawl, tie our shoe laces, eat our spinach, get on with other kids at school, think we are in love, learn to use an iPhone, get a job, marry, start a family, buy a house, car, home comforts.

- \* Coping with the demands and stresses of daily life leaves little space or time for any inner journey. But there is one. The inner and outer are not separate. And more than we realise the inner journey of changing attitudes, patterns of thinking, unconscious assumptions, spiritual awareness, beliefs we hold—all of these influence and mould our outer life-styles.
- \* (Yes, I am finding it difficult to leave the younger son!) So I'll do it by pointing to two turning points in his journey.

**No. 1:** He is disillusioned with his outer journey and 'he came to himself'. What do you make of that? A strange thought which seems to imply that he is two. 'He' and his 'self'. He realised he couldn't live with himself. If this is so which is the real or true self? Dare I say it? — Our life journey is a search for our true self. Take it further—our outer journey is to support our inner journey of finding and living from our true nature.

**No. 2:** The younger son composed and memorised a little poignant 'home-coming' speech. What do you think 'home' meant for him? What does 'home' mean for you? Have you had glimpses, or maybe experience(s) of HOME in the depth of your being—beyond words. What would you like to find when you get HOME?

In Jesus' story getting home ended with a party, celebrations, dancing. The journey revealed the difference between life and death. Being alive is the goal.

**Sincerely - Lester**

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 4 April:	40:5-11	Isa 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday 5 April:	93	Acts 4:32-end	John 3:7-15
Wednesday 6 April:	34:1-8	Acts 5:17-26	John 3:16-21
Thursday 7 April:	34:1,15-end	Acts 5:27-33	John 3:31-end
Friday 8 April:	27:1-5,16,17	Acts 5:34-42	John 6:1-15
Saturday 9 April:	33:1-5,18,19	Acts 6:1-7	John 6:16-21
<b>Sunday 10 April <u>Easter 3</u></b>			
Ps 30; Acts 9:1-6,(7-20); Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19			

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 11 April:	119:17-24	Acts 6:8-15	John 6:22-29
Tuesday 12 April:	31:1-5,16	Acts 7:51-8:1a	John 6:30-35
Wednesday 13 April:	66:1-6	Acts 8:1b-8	John 6:35-40
Thursday 14 April:	66:7-8, 14-end	Acts 8:26-end	John 6:44-51
Friday 15 April:	117	Acts 9:1-20	John 6:52-59
Saturday 16 April:	116:10-15	Acts 9:31-42	John 6:60-69
<b>Sunday 17 April <u>Easter 4</u></b>			
Ps 23; Acts 9:36-43; Rev 7:9-17; John 10:22-30			

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 18 April:	42:1-2; 43:1-4	Acts 11:1-18	John 10:1-10
Tuesday 19 April:	87	Acts 11:19-26	John 10:22-30
Wednesday 20 April:	67	Acts 12:24-13:5	John 12:44-end
Thursday 21 April:	89:1,2,20-26	Acts 13:13-25	John 13:16-20
Friday 22 April:	2	Acts 13:26-33	John 14:1-6
Saturday 23 April:	98:1-5	Acts 13:44-end	John 14:7-14
<b>Sunday 24 April <u>Easter 5</u></b>			
Ps 148; Acts 11:1-18; Rev 21:1-6; John 13:31-35			

## THE PARTY IS HAPPENING—WE ARE ALL INVITED

What a graphic picture of the older son! Slogging away in the field—what’s all the racket? — your brother has come home—your father is throwing a party. What a sad picture! His response is anger, refusing to join in spite of his father’s pleading. He feels it is all wrong, unfair. Is this his inner journey we are viewing? Do we see some bits that are in us too? Like, life isn’t fair, after all I’ve done is this the result? Why should I miss out on all the goodies?

This has the feel of being an example of “How to miss the party and the celebrations”. No it is not a case of being bad—but more of being blind. It is not a matter of looking for too much—but of expecting too little. As human beings we have to do so much to cope with the responsibilities of life and needs of our bodies, that just to survive is a heroic task. Besides no-one tells us there is more to being alive. There are many who wonder and ask— “Is this it?” Waking up to the fact that there is more is such a puzzling task. For some it takes a life time journey; for others it just happens—by accident?

Some say that when the pupil is ready the teacher will arrive. Some encourage us to realise (as Francis of Assisi did) ‘that the one you are looking for is the one who is looking’.

Jesus recognized that we are all at different places on our journey and that is just how it is. He talked of the person who went on a life-time search for the pearl of greatest value. It is a parable alongside the story of the farmer ploughing—hard at the daily slog and the plough or his foot catches on something solid and unexpected which interrupts his work. It turns out to be buried treasure.—more than his farm is worth. He stumbles over it!

The singer Neil Diamond puts it simply:-

*“Some people got to sigh, some people only make it through by never asking why. Some people got to laugh, some people got to cry, some people never see the light until the day they die.”*

The sad thing is not seeing that we already have the treasure—it is right here within us even as you read this. Dig it up today in this quiet moment.

Be still and know it exists, more real than all the other so-called realities of daily life.

## GLIMPSES OF THE ONE TRUE SELF

### The Bright Field

I have seen the sun break through  
to illuminate a small field  
for a while, and gone my way  
and forgotten it.  
But that was the pearl of great price,  
The one field that had the treasure in it.  
I realise now that I must give  
all that I have to possess it.  
Life is not hurrying on to a  
receding future,  
nor hankering after an  
imagined past.  
It is turning aside like Moses  
to the miracle of the lit bush,  
to a brightness that seemed  
as transitory as your youth once,  
But is the eternity that awaits you.

- the poet R S Thomas

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To know yourself as  
the Being underneath  
the thinker, and  
the stillness underneath  
the racing thoughts, and  
the love and joy  
beneath the pain  
is Freedom  
Salvation  
Enlightenment.

(based E Tolle)

Walter Wink:-

We deny  
in ourselves  
the powers  
we see  
in  
Jesus.

Where is this buried  
treasure,  
- this invisible gift,  
- this lurking presence,  
- this One who waits  
and wants to be found?

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Jesus said:-  
Split the wood.  
You will find  
me there.  
Lift the stone.  
I am there.

(from the Gospel of  
Thomas v 77)