

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



in the HCUC

**No. 16**

**For 25 Sept 2016**

**Dear Friends**

Somewhere in my student days I came across a story that keeps popping up in my mind. It goes something like this:-

*Jesus and a friend were walking in a village. They came across a dead dog in the gutter. The friend said it was a scavenger. “Look at its skinny body and its dirty scab-filled coat. And it was a fighter. You can tell from its torn ears. It deserved to die.” When he finished saying how disgusting the whole scene was, Jesus made only one comment as they moved away— “Pearls are not as beautiful as its teeth.”*

What makes one person say “I think that bit of art is ugly” and someone comes along and says “I find that full of beauty?” What do we mean when we say “That is beautiful?” We use the word daily in a hundred situations— beautiful places, beautiful people with beautiful minds, bodies, hearts, attitudes and spirit.

One writer who has considered the experience of encountering beauty in a profound way says “I am reminded that all such experiences have this in common, namely, the capacity to simply take your breath away. To actually make us inwardly gasp—at least for that second when it first hits you. Sometimes it is much quieter and the encounter slowly quietly seeps into you and you are changed, maybe only a little, but you are changed.

Recently I made a discovery. It was a real “Ahaa” moment, so simple! It was one sentence.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, the “I” of the beholder.

Now that’s worth pondering. The first part of the sentence is what we often use. The second part suggests a different level of perception. We see with a deeper aspect of our inner being.

A question before you turn the page:-

**Why is beauty so pleasing to us?**

**Sincerely - Lester**

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 26 September:	17:1-11	Job 1:6-end	Luke 9:46-50
Tuesday 27 September:	88:14-19	Job 3:1-3,11-17, 20-23	Luke 9:51-56
Wednesday 28 September:	88:1-6,11	Job 9:1-12,14-16	Luke 9:57-end
Thursday 29 September:	103:19-22	Gen 28:10-17	John 1:47-51
Friday 30 September:	139:6-11	Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5	Luke 10:13-16
Saturday 1 October:	119:169-end	Job 42:1-3,6,12-end	Luke 10:17-24
Sunday 2 October <b><u>Pentecost 20</u></b> Ps 37:1-9; Lam 1:1-6; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10			

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 3 October:	111:1-6	Gal 1:6-12	Luke 10:25-37
Tuesday 4 October:	139:1-9	Gal 1:13-end	Luke 10:38-end
Wednesday 5 October:	117	Gal 2:1-2,7-14	Luke 11:1-4
Thursday 6 October:	(113),115	Gal 3:1-5	Luke 11:5-13
Friday 7 October:	111:4-end	Gal 3:7-14	Luke 11:15-26
Saturday 8 October:	105:1-7	Gal 3:22-end	Luke 11:27-28
Sunday 9 October <b><u>Pentecost 21</u></b> Ps 66:1-12; Jer 29:1,4-7; 2 Tim 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19			

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 10 October:	113	Gal 4:21-24,26,27, 31; 5:1	Luke 11:29-32
Tuesday 11 October:	119:41-48	Gal 5:1-6	Luke 11:37-41
Wednesday 12 October:	1	Gal 5:18-end	Luke 11:42-46
Thursday 13 October:	98:1-4	Eph 1:1-10	Luke 11:47-end
Friday 14 October:	33:1-6,12	Eph 1:11-14	Luke 12:1-7
Saturday 15 October:	8	Eph 1:15-end	Luke 12:8-12
Sunday 16 October <b><u>Pentecost 22</u></b> Ps 119:97-104; Jer 31:27-34; 2 Tim 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8			

## POETS—NOW—AND THEN

Many of you will know Wordsworth's poem, especially at this season of spring—the one about daffodils. He doesn't use the word 'beauty' anywhere in it. He does say he gazed and gazed, but little thought what wealth the show to me had brought. However:

*For oft when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon the inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude.  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.*

- \* Those familiar with hymns will know that beauty is often a theme that is featured.

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies...*

[Comment: Did you see the TV program featuring the NZ scientist who is spending 10 months on his own in darkness at the South Pole—and his video shots of the night sky with the Southern Lights? The interviewer watched it in silence and then said with awe— 'It takes my breath away!'

*All things bright and beautiful ...  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness ...*

- \* Then there are the poets who have said things we probably puzzle over. Such as Keats with his lines:-

*Beauty is truth, Truth beauty,  
That is all ye know on earth  
and all ye need to know.*

Or the Eastern mystic and poet, Rumi with his call to:

*Let the beauty we love be what we do.  
There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.*

- \* It seems that we are not so much able to define beauty, rather it defines us. It opens us to who we are. It is a glimpse into the unchanging wholeness, the rock solid vision that everything is held together in unshakeable unity.

We are part of this creative, healing, loving oneness.

## BEAUTY IS TRUTH—TRUTH BEAUTY

Wonder, stillness and silence are usually around awareness of beauty.

In many ways it doesn't depend on the actual content of the art and the sense of beauty that arises.

There is something, some awareness, some in-tuneness, some vibration, some inner openness that allows us to know that this is the unchanging Truth of our true Self, and it is beautiful.

"While we are in this contemplative state, we do not want anything from the scenic beauty, or the painting, or the beautiful human being, or the music that holds us in its thrall. We just want to contemplate it; we want it to never end."

At that moment we have become the never-ending undying reality that is our true being. No wonder we don't want to lose it among the changing bits and pieces of daily life. We don't want it to change.

- ⊙ "There is something in every one of us that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in ourself."  
- Howard Thurman
- ⊙ "If you clean the floor with love, you have given the world an invisible painting."  
- Osho
- ⊙ If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to us as it is—Infinite.  
- Wm Blake
- ⊙ For many people seeing something physically beautiful is the closest they will ever get to the Beauty of the Divine. It's a little miniature version, a little reduced version of the infinite beauty that is the radiant Face of God, Reduced, yes, but still a ray of the Divine.  
-Thomas Mann
- ⊙ Plato's writing reminds us "that we can start with this ray of physical beauty and use it to climb back to a vision of the Good, the Ultimate Beauty itself."