

Lectionary
Readings for every day
You Select!



in the HCUC

No. 11

For 26 July 2015

Dear Friends

The item of news hit the headlines. Already it has dropped onto the scrap heap of stale news. But not for me—much to my surprise!

The story is stunning for its features of persistence and precision. I'm referring to the space probe called "New Horizons" put up by NASA. It only weighs 1,000 lbs (a grand-piano size). It has been on a 9 year voyage to the planet Pluto, flying at the blistering speed of 31,000 mph to cover the 3.7 billion miles. The accuracy meant that after its 9 year journey it arrived at the end only 78 seconds late. Wow!

Here's another note to add: Communications from NASA to "New Horizons" take 4-1/2 hours, or 9 hours for the round trip of a message out to the probe and back.

All of this has been like a door opening onto a new view of space for me. It is raising all sorts of questions. It has set me pondering on what people mean by saying such things as: "I need my own space", or "this space has a nice feel to it", or "I find that person is a bit too spacy for me". What do these or other common expressions mean for you?

Have you noticed the way in which space and silence are so often linked together? People often feel drawn to making a solitary trek in a wilderness area. They feel the challenge of space and silence in their attempt to discover more about themselves. At times it can be no more than an hour's walk on the beach or in the bush. We see all the great saints and sages heading for solitary spaces as an essential part of their inner spiritual growth.

I wonder why?

What is it about space? What is space?

Sincerely - Lester

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 27 July:	106:19-23	Exod 32:15-24,30-34	Matt 13:31-35
Tuesday 28 July:	103:8-12	Exod 33:7-11; 34:5-9,28	Matt 13:36-43
Wednesday 29 July:	99	Exod 34:29-end	Matt 13:44-46
Thursday 30 July:	84:1-6	Exod 40:16-21, 34-38	Matt 13:47-53
Friday 31 July:	81:1-8	Lev 23:1,4-11,15,16,	Matt 13:54-end
Saturday 1 August:	67	27,34-37	Matt 14:1-12
Saturday 1 August:	67	Lev 25:1,8-17	Matt 14:1-12
Sunday 2 August <u>Pentecost 10</u>			
Ps 51:1-12; 2 Sam 11:26-12:13a; Eph 4:1-16; John 6:24-35			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 3 August:	81:11-end	Numb 11:4-15	Matt 14:13-21
Tuesday 4 August:	51:1-8	Numb 12:1-13	Matt 14:22-end
Wednesday 5 August:	106:14-24	Numb 13:1-2, 25- 14:1,26-35	Matt 15:21-28
Thursday 6 August:	97	2 Pet 1:16-19	Luke 9:28b-36
Friday 7 August:	77:11-end	Deut 4:32-40	Matt 16:24-28
Saturday 8 August:	18:1,2,48-end	Deut 6:4-13	Matt 17:14-20
Sunday 9 August <u>Pentecost 11</u>			
Ps 130; 2 Sam 18:5-9,15,31-33; Eph 4:25-5:2; John 6:35,41-51			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 10 August:	147:13-end	Deut 10:12-end	Matt 17:22-end
Tuesday 11 August:	107:1-3, 42-end	Deut 31:1-8	Matt 18:1-5, 10,12-14
Wednesday 12 August:	66:14-end	Deut 34	Matt 18:15-20
Thursday 13 August:	114	Josh 3:7-11,13-17	Matt 18:21-19:1
Friday 14 August:	136:1-3, 16-22	Josh 24:1-13	Matt 19:3-12
Saturday 15 August:	45:10-end	Isa 61:10-11	Luke 1:46-55
Sunday 16 August <u>Pentecost 12</u>			
Ps 111; 1 Kings 2:10-12,3:3-14; Eph 5:15-20; John 6:51-58			

LOOKING INTO SPACE

Thank God for the sky—if you like, call it the sky-space. It is so vast, generous, friendly and constant. When the clouds emerge out of the space and race through it the sky-space never complains. It is completely untroubled by screaming jet planes, squawking birds and space debris treating it like a great city rubbish dump. When people build a hut or create a Taj Mahal and wall in bits of space and do their best to make it a nice, comfortable, welcoming space of their own, the space never complains or gets angry with such action. We can grab space to make it ours but space knows that whatever we snatch for ourselves is still just space. The inside space is still just out-side space. It is always one space.

The more we ponder the ins and outs of space it seems that the philosophers, scientists, mystics and meditators keep pointing us to some key things.

- The space we experience is vast. We encounter little bits like the inside of houses in different rooms, or the space in cup or clay pot, but it is not a separate or different space from the vast sky-space.
- Space is not nothingness. It is truer to say that space is everythingness—that all objects, all forms, all thoughts, all ideas emerge from space. It is often said these days that ‘space alone is’. The great scientist David Bohm put it this way: “Space as a whole is the ground of existence and we are in it. So space doesn't separate us, it unites us.”
- Space is not only vast it is infinite, eternal and beautiful. The mind boggles, bends and breaks in trying to understand space—which is a good sign that the mind itself has emerged from a source so infinite, creative and constant. As the human species we are fond of saying: “Space—the final frontier”. In one sense space has no frontier, no boundary, no edge to fall off, no end to discover. Yet it is a frontier for us—our tiny understanding is unable to cross into this infinite wonder.

LOOKING FOR SPACE— AND FINDING IT

There are several incidents which mention casually that Jesus went off to what was described as a lonely place on the edge of the village where he was staying. Why?

- To find a place (the space) between the series of hectic physical demands from people, events and noise?
- To find the space between his thoughts in order to be immersed in the creative source of his life?
- To confirm and nourish his inner knowledge of who he is and why he is where he is?
- To restore the balance between activity and refreshment, between giving and receiving, between doing and being?
- To strengthen the bond of his being one with the Father. To know (beyond his mind knowing) “that I live, yet not I, but the Christ consciousness which flows within me”?

* Space is untouched by the commotion of all the objects in the universe whirling madly about in it.
– Glen Kezwer

* Or in Einstein's words: “Space affects masses (objects, materials, forms, thoughts) but nothing affects space.”

* Our human hunger for silence and space is because this is our Source—what we so glibly call God.

* Seek the spaces that link:
– our infinite being
– our divine beauty
– our deepest hunger
– our unconditional love
– our flickering spirit

To the all encompassing space.