

Holy Week 2020

Wednesday

Readings (pp.3-5)

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 70

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

Collect

Sustaining God, when fears and doubts betray us, and we are too weary to know your presence, sustain us with a living word. Remind us of the cloud of witnesses who show us the pathway to you. Help us to run with perseverance the race towards Jesus, through whom we so clearly see your loving face and hear your challenging words. With Jesus we pray. Amen.ⁱ



Revd. Helen's reflection:

'Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.' *Isaiah 50:4b*

We are on the eve of Maundy Thursday. So many rich scripture passages, many words to reflect upon. From morning to night we make many choices – how we live, listen and act. Perhaps it is time for stillness as we prepare to enter the Triduum. Time to listen...deeply....

'The disciple is one who desires to follow Jesus and will listen for his voice.



Silence need not render us voiceless.

Isolation need not stir us to loneliness.

*Time spent in retreat can be wielded as if a saber,
parrying against the ravages and blows absorbed with
every step.*

*Sometimes, we can only move forward after we've first
gotten lost in that stillness.*

*And sometimes, the space between the noise cries out to
us the loudest.*

Take some time this day to listen.

Listen for the silence.

Then stand within that space.

For often, it is only within that silence that we can truly hear.' Words of Thomas Merton

Readings**Isaiah 50:4-9a***The Servant's Humiliation and Vindication*

The Lord God has given me

the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backwards.

I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;

the moth will eat them up.

Psalm 70*Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

O Lord, make haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and confusion

who seek my life.

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonour

who desire to hurt me.

Let those who say, 'Aha, Aha!'

turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you

rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation
 say evermore, 'God is great!'
 But I am poor and needy;
 hasten to me, O God!
 You are my help and my deliverer;
 O Lord, do not delay!

Hebrews 12:1-3

The Example of Jesus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

John 13:21-32

Jesus Foretells His Betrayal

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

'And it was night.' John 13:30b

Have you prepared or shared food this day?

Have you felt troubled?

Are you worried about finances?

What do you hear as you sit at the table with Jesus?

*Lord,
it is night.*

*The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.*

*It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.*

*The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.*

*The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.*

*The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.*

*In your name we pray.
Amen.ⁱⁱ*



Sleep in the peace of Christ.

*'All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.'*ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Harrison, Jenny and McAlpine, John. *Our Daily Bread*. (2011) ISBN:978-0-473-20040-4

ⁱⁱ A New Zealand Prayer Book | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa p.184 <http://anglicanprayerbook.nz/index.html#contents>

ⁱⁱⁱ Julian of Norwich