

Introduction To Worship

Sunday 18th October 2020 – Pentecost 20



Waterlily pond in Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve

This week I walked with Colleen and David through Antonio Park and Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve. It was a beautiful sunny day and we enjoyed our conversation as we walked. People were out and about walking along the paths and I spotted everlasting daisies and heard a kookaburra. You are blessed to have such a lovely place to visit. I hope to go on many more walks some of you over the next few months in parks or places near your home.

I've also spent time in my garden this week and am enjoying the flowers. One red rose called a Mr Mitchell has bloomed near my front door and its scent is beautiful. The smell of this rose greets me every time I go in and out my front door.

I have rows of Robinia trees out the front of my place and they're covered in blossoms and the trees are humming with the sounds of thousands of bees. The cherry blossom grove of 100 trees gifted to the people of Manningham at Banksia Park are also at their best. We are blessed in spring with an abundance of flowers and it is the best time to celebrate God's beautiful creation and give thanks to God for our blessings.

The funeral went well for a lady named Leonie and her family, and the committal at Lilydale Cemetery, which has beautiful gardens.

Joyce is much happier, and we need to keep on praying for those facing health issues within our congregation.

This week we focus on what we give to God and God gives to us. We consider how we might be travelling through this time in history with the COVID-19 lockdown and reflect on what's sustaining us. May you be fed and blessed by this week's worship.

Blessings
Rev Tina



Mountview Uniting Church

Mountview Worship @ Home

Sunday 18th October 2020



The Tribute Money, Jacob Backer, National Museum, Stockholm, Sweden

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty – Helen Jackson [2:54]

https://youtu.be/Zfvnl_5eKBM

*Composer: John Bacchus Dykes 1823-76. Lyricist: Reginald Heber 1783-1826 alt. Song: Public Domain
Video: © 2020 the Multimedia team. All Rights Reserved.*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
early in the morning to you our praise shall be;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore you,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before you,
God everlasting through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide you,
though the sinful human eye your glory may not see,
you alone are holy, there is none beside you
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
all your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed trinity.

Welcome To Our Service

Today we will focus on Giving to God what is God's.

May you be blessed by the worship.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place.
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.



Call To Worship

Give to God what is God's
We will give our hearts to God

Give to God what is God's
We will worship and praise God, all the days of our life

Give to God what is God's
We will give our life to God and to following Jesus

Prayers Of Adoration, Invocation And Confession

Loving God, you reveal your glory to us
 In our lives and the lives of others
 In what we encounter
 In the glimpses of you amongst the mystery of you
 In awe and wonder and praise and gratitude
 Our faith grows

We give you thanks and praise for your blessings to us

Jesus our Lord,
 You taught us how to give to God what is God's
 In how you lived your life
 Walking in trust
 Giving thanks to God
 Praying always
 Eating with people from many backgrounds
 Celebrating festivals
 Encouraging and teaching
 Healing and comforting
 Giving your life for us

We give you thanks and praise for your blessings to us

Holy Spirit, come
 Fill us with courage and hope for the journey
 For you are always within us
 Leading us on
 Inspiring us
 Revealing God to us

We give you thanks and praise for your blessings to us

And Lord, if during this time we have hurt another,
 forgive us and transform our hearts
 Give us grace to accept forgiveness or offer forgiveness
 In this silence Lord, we come to you
 With all that's on our hearts and all that's left undone
 Help us see and know your love and glory Lord.
 Help us draw near to you and make a new beginning in our lives.

Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us

"Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God

Scripture Readings

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Sometimes an alternate text source (a paraphrase) is used to aid with study and reflection.*

Exodus 33:1 – 34:4

The Command to Leave Sinai

33 ¹ The Lord said to Moses, "Go, leave this place, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' ² I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, or I would consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

⁴ When the people heard these harsh words, they mourned, and no one put on ornaments. ⁵ For the Lord had said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, and I will decide what to do to you.'" ⁶ Therefore the Israelites stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.

The Tent outside the Camp

⁷ Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. ⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tent. ¹¹ Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent.

Moses' Intercession

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here.

¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

[Context is important when understanding readings from the bible.

This reading follows on from the People making a golden calf and worshiping it.

God is angry and Moses intercedes on behalf of the people and the reading continues on with the following verses which lead to a renewing of the covenant between God and his people]

Moses Makes New Tablets

34 ¹The Lord said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you broke. ²Be ready in the morning and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai and present yourself there to me, on the top of the mountain. ³No one shall come up with you, and do not let anyone be seen throughout all the mountain; and do not let flocks or herds graze in front of that mountain.” ⁴So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the former ones; and he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.”
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Matthew 22: 15-22

Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?
¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” ²¹ “Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So, they left him and went away.

Hymn: Kneels At The Feet Of His Friends – Helen Jackson [2:16]

<https://youtu.be/-tyNO9QVVK4>

*Music: Folk Melody from Ghana; Public Domain. Lyricist: Tom Colvin 1925– and people of Ghana alt.; © T. Colvin / Hope Publishing; Permission to stream the song obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-620587 [MUC]
Video: © 2020 the Multimedia team. All Rights Reserved.*

For The Young At Heart

Psalm 96:12

*Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.*

The Story Of The Sacred Forest

A friend invited me to stay with her in Sulmona, Italy, a village up in the mountains of central Italy.

It was autumn and the leaves on trees all over the mountains were golden, red and orange.

One day we drove to a sacred forest. It was a forest of silver birches, thousands of trees, with stark white trunks and branches and golden leaves, with wild cyclamens growing underneath them.

We were looking for mushrooms and found a stone shrine for a saint that once lived in the forest as a hermit. I stood nearby watching the light streaming through the golden leaves that made them appear like fire and it was breathtakingly beautiful. Not only that, but there was a slight breeze and the leaves on the trees were rustling, as if they were singing, like the entire forest was alive and singing. That's why I call it a sacred forest.

A beautiful place where God and a saint dwelled together.

Later on, when I read the words of psalm 96, about the trees of the forest singing for joy, it reminded me of this forest that God created. Since then whenever I hear leaves rustling in the breeze I think of this psalm.

No wonder the saint decided to make the sacred forest his home.

YouTube of Children Praising God

To God Be The Glory – Lifetree Kids [2:19]

<https://youtu.be/Y0dQbfbSW0Q>

*by Fanny Jan Crosby and William Howard Doane;
Arrangement: © Group Publishing. Music-video: Roar VBS. Posted to YouTube by Lifetree Kids with attributions*

Sermon

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen



The Tribute Money, Jacob Backer, National Museum, Stockholm, Sweden

I spent some time meditating on this picture based on today's gospel where Jesus says to a group of people, 'Give to God what is God's.' It made me wonder. What do we give to God and what is God's?

From the moment we become aware of God, we grow in wonder and awe. As a child in Sunday school we wonder at the stories of Jesus which are told to us by Sunday school teachers. I remember a service at St Albans Uniting (ten years ago) where thirty Sunday school children were gathered at the front of the church and twenty leaders from the youth group told them the story of the Bonsai tree and the Redwood. They may be small in stature and their faith a seed in their hearts, but one day they too will be youth leaders and like a redwood tree, tall with a faith that's grown tall and strong like the redwood.

I remember my grandmother brining me to Sunday School and listening to stories from the bible about Jesus and bible heroes and learning to pray and listen to God in my heart and then being a member of a youth group where many of my friends went into ministry and how members of my family supported and encouraged my faith. These were foundational times for my faith and I'm sure you also have memories of childhood and teenage years, teachers, mentors and role models.

Before we know it, we have grown up and have our own children and do our best to nurture their faith and plant seeds in their hearts with the hope that they too will love God like we do and follow Jesus. We watch over them as they grow in faith and find their way and place in the world and discover God's plan for their life as we did. Suddenly before we know it, we are grandparents and then great-grandparents and have witnessed a lifetime of faith journeys in our family and other families. We may realize we are in the autumn of our lives and look back over what we have done with our life and know what Jesus is talking about when he says, 'Give to God what is God's.' How we have given our heart, mind, soul and life to God and our loved ones. We may reflect on the times we have discovered Jesus in others, our partner, children, parents, church family, friends, or a stranger. Or how by following Jesus we have been brought through difficult times and because we have known sadness our joy is more intense. We may come to know God has created us for Himself and delights in us and made us to know him and love Him with all our being. We may know God says to all of us, 'Well done good and faithful servant.' We can all rejoice in our faith as we grow in awe and peace and ponder on the reality of what we give to God all the days of our is our heart.

I wonder what we want from God. Perhaps it is to see and know God who calls us forward on a journey where we follow Jesus. Most of the time it's a walk of trust where we do not know where we are going and there are no guarantees. It's a bit like that now, as we live with restrictions, limitations and uncertainty. Yet, God is with us every step of the way. Like Moses we cannot see God face to face. A lot of our faith is mystery. Yet we believe. We see the Lord's glory moving in our life and the lives of others. When difficulties come and we overcome them, our faith is strengthened, and we resolve to keep on following Jesus and living out his gospel.

Moses was on a journey. He was leading his people to the promised land and wanted God to show him His ways. He was interceding for his people after they built a golden calf and worshipped it and he needed to know he and his people still found favor with God because God was angry with them. God promised Moses his presence would go with him and he would give him rest. Most people would find God' reassurance and peace enough. Not Moses. He wanted to see God's glory. God agreed to make his goodness pass by Moses.

Moses could not see God face to face and live, so with gentleness God covers Moses with His hand as He passes by then takes away his hand, so Moses has a glimpse of his back. It's like that for all of us.

Some of us have a glimpse of God. We do not see God face to face. We come to know God in Jesus through the gospels, worship prayer and through witnessing the love of God in others. We long to know more and see God more. I remember praying as a child of six and feeling God's presence all around me, surrounded by God's love and filled with God's love. We know God when we pray, whether its love or peace of joy or a sigh of relief. There are many ways of encountering God. I've heard many people say they prefer to pray outdoors in nature.

*Small pond near Heide Modern Art Gallery,
with woman having a quiet moment of prayer*



Moses often had conversations with God in the tent of meeting which he set up outside of the main camp.

Whenever he went to the tent to pray and spend time with God, the people would rise and stand at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses enter the tent of meeting. They would see a pillar of cloud descend upon the tent and believed God was in the clouds. They would pray at the entrance of their tents and bow down to God, while God spoke with Moses face to face, as one speaks with a friend. Moses was a mediator between God and the people and in today's gospel he is interceding on their behalf. God wasn't going to come with the people after they made the calf but after Moses intercessions on behalf of the people God came with them. The people had been struggling along the way and this changed after they came to know of God revealing his glory to Moses and Moses telling them the story of this gift where God disclosed His identity and character, and divine freedom and goodness. How often do we intercede on behalf of others asking God to change the situation, to heal someone, to help someone overcome or believe or heal? Perhaps some of us hope our intercessions will change God's mind or another's mind. For Moses, it was more about knowing God than solving a problem. After knowing God and sharing his experience, there was no longer a problem. Moses focused on the solution. Having faith in God and trusting in God, no matter what. Moses didn't focus on what the people did he focused on knowing God and the people's faith was restored after he shared about his encounter with God. His deepest longing was to know God.

I wonder what God gives us? Eternal life, spiritual food for the journey, love, the Holy Spirit, creation, a purpose, spiritual gifts, a call, family, friends, food, faith, hope and joy. The list is endless. In return we give God our life, our heart and soul. We are not called to have a wishy-washy faith. We are like the youth leaders. Called to grow into Redwood forests, the community of God, the body of Christ, the face of Christ, all this and more in the world and this requires a strong and constant faith with deep roots in Christ. We give of our self to God so we may find ourself in God.



African Bishop Praying

Rev Tina

Here I Am, Lord (I The Lord Of Sea & Sky) – John Michael Talbot [4:04]

<https://youtu.be/gZK-5v9gMTI>

Music & Lyrics: Daniel L Schutte 1947–;

Posted to YouTube by JohnMichaelTalbot with limited attributions

Offering Prayer

about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have

**Lord and giver of every good thing,
we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom,
all for transformation through your grace and love,
made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen**

Prayers Of The People And The Lord's Prayer

Michael Plumridge has prepared the Prayers of the people for you today

Lord of all the people and nations of the Earth;

God who is Creator, Great Spirit and close companion to us all in Jesus, please hear our prayers.

In our prayers for the World, Lord, we pray this morning for all the islands of The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

Lord we give you thanks for the natural beauty, climate, and distinctive geographic features of these wonderful tropical islands. Archaeologists have shown that the islands have been inhabited for thousands of years, and we give thanks for the unique cultural practices of the islands.

Lord we thank you for the presence of the Church in the region and for the way people of faith have responded to disasters and served all in need. We pray for strength for them and for all who have been affected by earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis that occur frequently in the area. Lord we ask for strength for all your faithful people who witness through word and deed to the gospel.

Loving God we pray for all who participate in the continuing work of liberation. We acknowledge that the practices of colonialism have caused great harm in the world and that many nations and peoples are still recovering. We give thanks for those whose life's work is to free the oppressed. We thank you also for those whose music, art and written words have provided comfort and hope to those who suffer.

We pray for those affected by crime and addictions.

We thank you for the Commonwealth Games, for the nations that participate and for the hope and inspiration that athletes give to the people.

We pray for honest and reliable governments in this region.

In other Prayers for the World, we ask for a speedy end to the global pandemic. We pray for all those who have lost loved ones and those others whose health has been permanently impaired.

We pray for businesspeople who cannot trade; we pray for employees who cannot work. We pray also for all those citizens of countries who do not have access to government supports and have been thrust into poverty. Lord have mercy.

Locally Lord we ask your blessing on all at St John's Anglican, Blackburn; we ask your blessing on their Vicar and all who are members and associates there. Lord we also ask you to bless our brothers and sisters at Mark the Evangelist Uniting Church North Melbourne. Be with them at this time of restrictions and confinement. We pray also for the Ormond College Chaplaincy. Be with them as they minister to students at this difficult time.

We pray for our own church Mountview. We give you thanks for your continuing presence with us and for the love that we share even whilst apart. We thank you for our minister Tina and the worship resources that keep us connected. We thank you for all those whose work in the name of Mountview continues at this time of pandemic. We pray for all who have special needs at this time...

Lord we pray for all those who are suffering ill health currently; grant them comfort.

We pray for those who are depressed; we pray for them to have appropriate treatment and recovery.

We pray this and all our prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Dismissal

Go out into the world in the power of the spirit and in all things at all times remember Christ is with you.
Make your life your worship to the praise and glory of God. Amen

Hymn: You Shall Go Out With Joy (Trees Of The Field) – Helen Jackson [1:53]

<https://youtu.be/vsxetUob-bs>

*Composer: Stuart Dauermann 1944– . Lyricist: Steffi Geiser Rubin 1950– ; Based upon Isaiah 55:12.
Song: © S. Dauermann / S. G. Rubin / Lillenas Publishing; Lyrics Reproduced (below) and Streamed by permission.
CCLI Licence No. 122303 [MUC] Video: © 2020 the Multimedia team. All Rights Reserved.*

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace,
and the mountains and hills shall break forth in singing.
There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.



I have provided extra resources to accompany you on the journey. Rev Tina

Extra Worship Resources

Psalm 150 – Praise for God's Surpassing Greatness

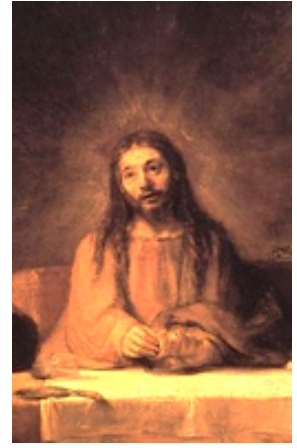
¹ Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!^[a]
² Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
³ Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

Prayer the Rhythms of Life, by Glandion Carney and William Long (adapted) From 'Longing for God'

In Psalm 150:2 we praise God for his acts of power and surpassing greatness that is displayed everywhere. We praise God for all things. Everything in and of itself isn't always good but everything in the light of God's purpose works for good. Praising God in all circumstances, even when its contrary to wisdom and good sense, is the best avenue to gain understanding and wisdom about the complexities of life.

Praising God for all things is an essential element in our strategy of living. At times we experience distress and difficulties which can make it difficult to trust and praise God. Through loss and foolishness, we have learnt praise is a powerful ingredient in bringing order, rhythm and a meaning to life. Praise is not selective. It's a habit.

Where we respond to life with open arms of affection and praise.



For Children And Young People



Spoonville families found at a park connected with Antonio Park, Mitcham and on the other side of town in a park in South Yarra

Song: O Mio Babbino Caro – André Rieu & Amira Willighagen [5:31]

<https://youtu.be/s9PQ7qPkluM>

Amira is a nine-year-old girl from the Netherlands who wants to be an opera singer – 'Have faith in God and pursue your dreams and never give up'. Posted to YouTube by André Rieu, with limited attributions

Being Human



By Leunig. Used with permission.

Some days we may feel like this. When I saw this cartoon, I reflected on what's been sustaining me through lockdown. It's been family and friends, reading and living the gospel each day and praying on it and preparing the worship materials. Exercising daily and getting enough sleep. Writing up a to do list each morning when I pray and ticking off each item as I do it. It can be to call someone, do the worship or walk the dog or cook dinner or clean up something. It's good to look back on the day as productive, even if its simple tasks.

I belong to four different groups where we offer support to each other, for example colleagues and Whitehorse Churches and we meet on zoom. An App called Calm with sleep stories and relaxing music helps.

You may have your own ways of finding sustenance. If you don't have enough self-care strategies and feel despondent and bored like the man in Leunig's cartoon, it's time for you to reach out to family and friends and your church family. Give them a ring and share your feelings and try to find some ways that work for you that are nurturing and sustaining.

Travelling out of COVID-19 lockdown at the pace of a Snail



Slowly, cautiously, sensibly and realistically, taking care of one another and reaching out to one another, we will emerge from lockdown and will come together again, for a big sing and a cuppa after the service. We will celebrate together again.

'God Help Me To Grow' by Neil Paynter

(from: 'Acorns and Archangels' – collated by Ruth Burgess; Wild Goose Publications; © WGRG, The Iona Community, 21 Carlton Court, Glasgow, G5 9JP, Scotland. wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.wgrg.co.uk Reproduced by permission)

God help me to grow
like a garden
like a song
like a tree.

Like a great tree
like one of those great, old trees
you meet sometimes and hug
wandering lost
or enchanted
in a deep, dark forest,
in an empty field.

A great, old tree
with roots that reach down to the heart
roots that reach down
but break through the ground
around the trunk and lift
as if the earth can't contain the yearning.

A great, old tree
with arms that shelter and shade
and house such love.

A great, old tree
with breaks and wounds and scars
but dancing and clapping its hands
like a beautiful old woman at a summer wedding.

A great, old tree
still and centred
drawing on the living warm core of God
though left stripped of everything

God help me to grow
like a garden
like a song
like a tree.

Like one of those great, old trees
you meet sometimes
in a crowded forest
in an empty field....



Image: Parks Victoria

From Contemplative Monk



Christians throughout the world have been invited to say the Lord's Prayer every day

Please join them:

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen

Moses Before and After



Rev Tina, for Mountview Uniting Church

The following link is to the 'Worship' page on our website, from where other resources may be accessed:

<https://www.mountviewuca.org/worship.html>

Final collation by Mountview Multimedia team.

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