

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

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Friday 1st May 2020



Opening Psalm 40:1-3

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Prayer:

In the mystery of your presence, no words are needed. In the depth of your silence, no sound is necessary. In the face of your Word, no voice need respond.

“Be still”, you say, “and know that I am God.”

Lord, help us this day to be still and listen – and, even though our minds may race and our souls may feel unsettled, help us to know that you are here by your

Spirit, because you have promised to be with us to the very end of the age. Amen

Reading: Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Reflection:

A few weeks ago, speaking about life during the pandemic, the Pope is quoted as saying, *“We must rediscover the concreteness of little things, small gestures of attention we can offer those close to us, our family, our friends. We must understand that in small things lies our treasure”*.

Where you have found treasure these last few weeks?

There is no doubt that we have been forced to think about those things that really matter to us during this time and perhaps we have come to notice more acutely the treasures that are all around us. The beauty of nature, the smile in a friend’s voice on the phone, the simple pleasures of mealtimes, the gift of connectivity

through technology – all these may have become more treasured than previously.

Jesus talked about storing up treasures in heaven. I wonder what treasures you think of when you read those words?

Watching “The Big Night In” last week, I was struck by the T-shirt that Miranda Hart was wearing, designed to raise money for Comic Relief. It simply says, “Love Wins”. The design is by the artist Charlie Mackesy who wrote and illustrated “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse” – a rather beautifully illustrated book about kindness and love. Although written before the current crisis, its words are very apt for this time. I quote:

“When the dark clouds come, keep going. When the big things feel out of control, focus on what you love right under your nose. This storm will pass.”

“Nothing beats kindness...It sits quietly beyond all things.”

“I’ve realised why we are here,” whispered the boy.

“For cake?” asked the mole.

“To love,” said the boy.

“And to be loved,” said the horse.

For me, kindness and love are treasures that I believe will last, both now and into eternity. They are treasures that we can both give and receive today.

Prayer:

Lord, touch our eyes that we may have a glimpse of the world as you see it.

Touch our lips that we may speak something of your words of life.

Touch our hearts that they may be moved with the compassion that reflects you.

Touch our minds that we may have an inkling of your wisdom.

Touch our lives that we may reflect a little of your beauty.

And in the reality of our lives at this time, enable us to store up treasures in heaven.

Amen

Blessing

May the blessing of the living God be upon you this day. In every day and every way may you know his overshadowing around you, within you and for you. May the blessing, love and affection of heaven be toward you. Amen