

PRAAYER FOR THE WEEK

Monday 25th May 2020

by Hazel Richardson



A meditation by Raphael Consedine

*The pilgrims paused on the ancient stones
In the mountain gap.*

*Behind them stretched the roadway they had travelled.
Ahead, mist hid the track.*

*Unspoken the question hovered:
Why go on? Is life not short enough?*

*Why seek to pierce its mystery?
Why venture further on strange paths, risking all?*

*Surely that is a gamble for fools – or lovers.
Why not return quietly to the known road?*

Why be a pilgrim still?

A voice they knew called to them, saying:

*This is Trasna, the crossing place.
Choose! Go back if you must,*

*You will find your way easily by yesterday's fires,
there may be life in the embers yet.*

*If that is not your deep desire,
Stand still. Lay down your load.*

*Take your life firmly in your two hands,
(Gently... you are trusted with something precious)*

*While you search your heart's yearnings:
What am I seeking? What is my quest?*

*When your star rises deep within,
Trust yourself to its leading.
You will have the light for first steps.*

This is Trasna, the crossing place.

*Choose!
This is Trasna, the crossing place
Come !*

And a prayer...

Calling and guiding God, we too are at the crossing place now,
mist hides the track, and we need your help and guidance.

For we too must choose.

For weeks we too have paused, staying in our home,
safely cocooned in its comfort and security,
and now we must find a way of moving on, slowly and tentatively
finding our way back into the togetherness that we both long for and fear.

We have not been here before, and nor have our politicians,
neither those who advise us through medical and scientific research.

We understand that we cannot return to exactly where we were,
for the world we knew has changed, and we have suffered many losses.

There will indeed be embers of yesterday's fires,

and we must choose which ones to rekindle, and which to let die.
Give us vision to discern our hearts' yearnings,
to know what we are seeking,
and where and when we may need to light new fires.
For we too must venture on strange paths, risking all.

But, as always, we put our trust in you, our loving Creator,
that you will be with us always, through thick and thin,
giving us light for the next steps, walking alongside us, at the speed of love.

Jesus said, "I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."
How blessed we are that, through your Holy Spirit,
you are not just 'with' us, but 'in' us,
even in our confusion and vulnerability.
So help us to see something of you in all people,
and to treat them kindly and respectfully –
even those with whom we may disagree at this time of decision-making.
May we follow your call and seek your wisdom,
both within our own hearts and in those around us,
and support each other with compassion
as we travel on, in faith and trust, into unfamiliar territory.
Amen.