

7. Closing Prayer

Living flame of love,
so touch our hearts with your bright fire,
that we whose faith is sometimes weak, even
chilly, may burn with your passion.

Warm the globe with your love,
reflecting your care for all of your creation.

May your gentle whisper
break through the clamour of this world
and into our small corner.

Bring us back to the place
when our love was fresh
not embarrassed to speak
of you or thank you.

May the hope we treasure
be the song we sing
and the melody of our lives.

Chris Polhill (adapted)

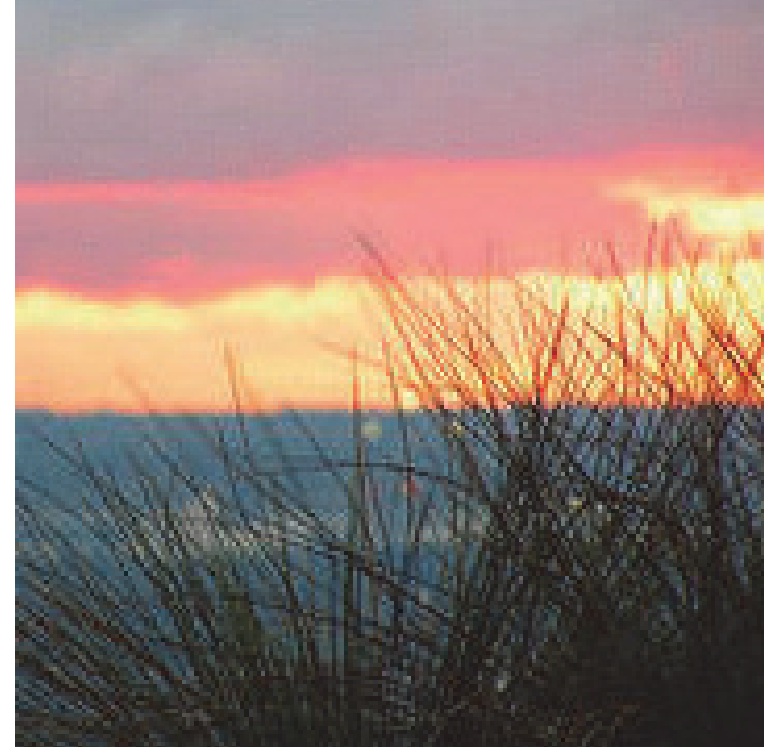
*The mountains may depart,
the hills be shaken
but my love for you will never leave you.*

Isaiah 54:10

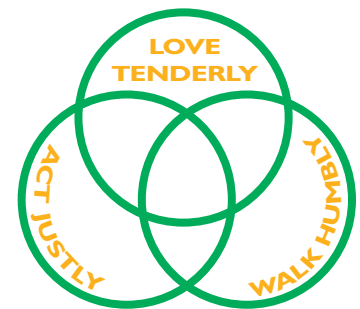


Partners in Faith

C/o Sophia Housing Association,
25 Cork Street, Dublin 8.
Tel: 453 5348
Email: info@partnersinfaith.ie
Website: www.partnersinfaith.ie



Making Space for Grace
Second Sunday of Advent 2018



Partners in Faith

C/o Sophia Housing Association,
25 Cork Street, Dublin 8.
Tel: 453 5348
Email: info@partnersinfaith.ie
Website: www.partnersinfaith.ie

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Prodigal God,
You set before us not merely sufficient,
but plenty.
You do not wish for us
deprivation or a meagre ration
but the glorious excess of life itself;
Fill us, then, with such sweet hunger
that we shall not rest
until we sit down with the oppressed
to share and savour the bread of liberation.

God of hope, who brought love into this
world, be the love that lives within us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this
world, be the peace that rests between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand on,
be the centre and focus of our lives
always and particularly at this Advent time.

Julie Greenan and anon

2. Gospel Text: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius
Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor
of Judea, Herod Tetrarch of Galilee, his
brother Philip Tetrarch of Iturea and
Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene
– during the high priesthood of Annas and
Caiaphas, the word of God came to John
son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He
went into all the country around the
Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.

As it is written in the book of the words of
Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
Make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall be made
straight, the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God’s salvation.”

3. Quiet moment

*People can read over the text for themselves
and pick out words or short phrases that
strike them and say them out loud. When
everyone has had a chance to say their word
or phrase, they can then reflect silently for a
moment or two and then briefly say why such
a word/phrase struck them – in relation to
themselves or their community or the world*

4. Reflection questions for Luke 3:1-6

1. There are unclaimed spaces near you.
What would you like to do with them?
2. ‘Like people dreaming’ (Psalm 146: 1) –
what would fill you with joy if it
came to pass?
Can you do anything to make it happen?
3. What do you want to adjust in
your own life?

5. Prayers

*Mentioning the people and situations we want
to pray for.*

6. Background Notes for Luke 3:1-6

Luke places John the Baptist on a wide
political stage of imperial Rome, top Jewish
rulers and the Jewish high priestly families.
His coming out of the wilderness is in total
contrast to their panoply of power. A form
of baptism had been used with gentiles
converting to the Jewish faith but here John
is putting Jewish people in the same
category – as needing conversion, a radical
change of values and lifestyle.

The quote from Isaiah 40:3-5 underlines
the need for uprooting, levelling,
straightening, smoothing out and
strengthening infrastructure. But this has
to happen in people’s hearts. They need to
let God hold sway. Accepting to be baptised
would be a way of showing that they are
ready to begin changing.

