

7. Concluding Prayer

O God of a thousand names and faces
Mother and Father of all life on earth,
you live in the cells of all of life.
Teach us to know and love you.

Lady of peace, of love, of wisdom,
Lord of all the stars and planets,
Best consoler, gracious guest,
Teach us to know and love you.

Giver of gifts and light of our hearts,
Fill the deepest part of our hearts,
Teach us to know and love you.

Wash what is soiled, heal what is wounded,
Bend what is rigid, warm what is frigid,
and teach us to know and love.

Restore to us our humanness,
and teach us to know and love you.

Sharon Owens.

Risen One
Send us forth as disciples
of your unwavering love,
messengers of your unlimited joy.



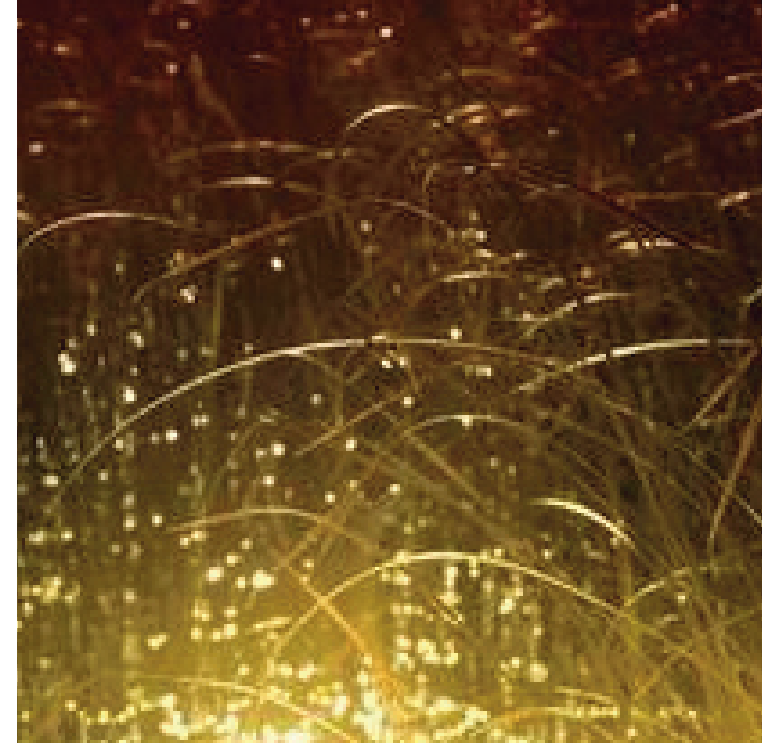
Partners in Faith

25 Cork Street, Dublin 8.

Tel: 453 5348

Email: info@partnersinfaith.ie

Website: www.partnersinfaith.ie



Catching Slivers of Light
Fifth Sunday of Lent 2019



Partners in Faith

25 Cork Street, Dublin 8.

Tel: 453 5348

Email: info@partnersinfaith.ie

Website: www.partnersinfaith.ie

1. Welcome and opening prayer

God of the journey,
when the road of life seems long and tedious,
when the dying and the rising get to be too
much, be a pillar of fire by night and a
comforting cloud by day.

So that we can not only see the way
but be confident of your gracious presence.

Thank you for your nearness to us
and for encouraging us to trust in you.
We need a burning bush to set our hearts
aflake with deep love of you.

Joyce Rupp (adapted)

2. Gospel text: John 8:1-11

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus: “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They were using the question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus

was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her: “Woman, where are they?” Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you.” Jesus declared, “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

3. Quiet Moment

People can read over the story again and pick out a word or short phrase that strikes them and say it out loud. When everyone has had a chance to speak, people can silently listen to what God is saying to them in their hearts linking it with themselves, their community, society/world. Then some sharing.

NB Not a time for argument.

4. Reflection questions for John 8:1-11

1. In your opinion why do double standards for men and women still prevail?
2. ‘We affirm the goodness of God at the heart of humanity planted more deeply than all that is wrong.’ Comment.

5. Prayers

Mentioning the people/situations we want to pray for....

6. Background Notes for John 8:1-11

The Pharisees and teachers of the law circle her, in the Temple. Very sure of themselves – they have the whole weight of the Law of Moses behind them. Mob justice will quickly be done. The woman is shamed, terrified, a few minutes from death.

Jesus does not stand up to meet them. He chooses not to be engaged on their terms but remains stooped, scribbling on the ground. (Scholars disagree about the significance of what he is doing). As they persist with their questioning he stands up to turn the tables on them. As they slink away the men have judged themselves. He engages the woman in judging the situation and assessing the outcome. She is free to go. But she doesn’t run. She stays and Jesus talks to her in full public view, eye to eye, heart to heart. He sees deeper into the life-giving truth within her. There is no judgement, only belief in her ability to turn things around and love more responsibly.