

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

June 2022

(Based on Isaiah 43:1-7)

The God who breathed this world alive
And sustains it day by day
Whose hands flung stars into space
And controls our destiny
Says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you."

The God who filled the ocean depths
And set tides on their way
Who caused mountains to be raised up
And rainbows to display
Says, "I have called you by name, you are mine."

The God who made the fertile earth
And seed within to sow
Whose artistry creates butterflies
And the early morning dew
Says, "You are precious in my sight."



1 st	Justin, martyr at Rome (d.167): Only the one true God can take the risk of ruling by relying on the power of humility and love. <i>Stanley Hauerwas (b.1940)</i>
2 nd	Week of Prayer for Reconciliation/Christian Unity: I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. <i>Psalms 16:6</i>
3 rd	Martyrs of Uganda (d.1886); Janani Luwum, martyr (d.1997); John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, reformer (d.1953): Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do. <i>Pope John X III</i>
4 th	On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." Now he said this about the Spirit which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. <i>John 7:37-39</i>
5 th	Day of Pentecost: Bethlehem was God with us; Calvary was God for us; and Pentecost is God in us.
6 th	Ember Day: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. <i>Psalms 121:7-8</i>
7 th	Ember Day: In the final analysis, the only available options are either to reject the cross and with it the core of the Christian faith or to take up one's cross, follow the Crucified and be scandalised ever anew by the challenge. <i>Miroslav Volf (b.1956): Exclusion & Embrace - A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation</i>
8 th	Ember Day: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. <i>Psalms 89:1</i>
9 th	Columba of Iona, abbot and missionary (d.597): Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked "Who are you Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no-one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <i>Acts 9:3-9</i>
10 th	Ember Day: Become aware of God, in whose presence you are while you pray ... Then take a formula of prayer and recite it with perfect attention both to the words you are saying and to the Person to whom you are saying them. <i>John Climacus (525-606)</i>
11 th	Barnabas, Apostle & Martyr: I will study the way that is blameless. When shall I attain it? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is base. <i>Psalms 101:2</i>
12 th	Trinity Sunday: And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise; and do not neglect it. <i>Proverbs 8: 32-33</i>
13 th	Antony of Padua, missionary and teacher (d.1231): Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but those who hate to be rebuked are stupid. <i>Proverbs 12:1</i>
14 th	Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up. <i>Proverbs 12:25</i>
15 th	Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer (d.1941): As the beautiful does not exist for the artist and poet alone - though these can find in it more poignant depths of meaning than other men - so the world of Reality exists for all; and all may participate in it, unite with it, according to their measure and to the strength and purity of their desire. <i>Evelyn Underhill, Practical Mysticism; and, Abba: Meditations on the Lord's Prayer</i>

16 th	Thanksgiving for the Holy Communion: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God: for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. <i>Psalm 147:1</i>
17 th	The doctrines of grace humble man without degrading him and exalt him without inflating him. <i>Charles Hodge (1797-1878)</i>
18 th	What makes authentic disciples is not visions, ecstasies, biblical mastery of chapter and verse, or spectacular success in the ministry, but a capacity for faithfulness. Buffeted by the fickle winds of failure, battered by their own unruly emotions, and bruised by rejection and ridicule, authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses, gotten handcuffed to the fleshpots and wandered into a far country. Yet, they kept coming back to Jesus. <i>Brennan Manning (1934-2013)</i>
19 th	Second Sunday after Pentecost: Without Pentecost the Christ-event – the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now. <i>Henri Nouwen</i>
20 th	My brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. <i>James 1:1-4</i>
21 st	But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. <i>James 1:22-25</i>
22 nd	Alban, first British martyr (d.c.209): Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. <i>Psalm 119:38</i>
23 rd	Sometimes the best gain is to lose. <i>George Herbert (1593-1633)</i>
24 th	The Birth of John the Baptist: He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John". And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <i>Luke 1:63-65</i>
25 th	O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. <i>Psalm 136:1</i>
26 th	Third Sunday after Pentecost: The only journey is the journey within. <i>Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)</i>
27 th	Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and teacher (d.444): Let my prayer be counted as incense before you; and the lifting up of my hands an evening sacrifice. <i>Psalm 141:2</i>
28 th	Iraeneus of Lyons, bishop and teacher (d.c.200): As long as anyone has the means of doing good to his neighbours, and does not do so, he shall be reckoned a stranger to the love of the Lord. <i>Iraeneus of Lyons</i>
29 th	Peter and Paul, Apostles & Martyrs: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord! <i>Psalm 116:18-19</i>
30 th	We must not wish for the disappearance of our troubles but for the grace to transform them. <i>Simone Weil (1909-1943)</i>

PRAYER THOUGHTS



- Sunday** Father, forgive me when I doubt you; forgive me when I let fear overwhelm me and limit what I can do. Help me to worship you joyfully and faithfully through all my words and actions.
- Monday** Help me, Lord, today to go into the unknown, for your sake: to show your love in my life because it's there; to declare you by word and deed and being; to nurture your life in me rather than my own.
- Tuesday** Lord, your gift to us of your very self still lies, unwrapped, in the forgotten corners of our world. Give us, today, the joy of rediscovering your presence in the presence of each other. *Lighted Windows: Margaret Silf.*
- Wednesday** As a potter shapes clay into a vessel, shape me, O Blessed One, into a true disciple of your Way. Fill me with your grace that I may train my body this day to serve others. *Modern prayer by Edward Hays*
- Thursday** Lord, to belong to you is to find my home only in the journey that leads into your mystery. Please give me the courage to embrace the challenge of that journey. *Amen*
- Friday** **A prayer for Ukraine:**
God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. *Amen*

We also recognise the suffering of Russian soldiers and citizens who have been drawn into a war not of their making. May they display courage in their convictions and calls for peace. May they look to you as a source of comfort in the face of tyranny and the hardships that will flow from the government's actions. *Amen*
- Saturday** Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. *Amen*

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

for our *city on a hill...* and beyond.

Produced by the Pastoral Care Committee of the
Anglican Parish of St Alban, Epping
3 Pembroke Street Epping.
New South Wales 2121 Australia
Telephone +61 2 9876 3362 www.eppinganglicans.org.au