

Prayer of Confession

And the people came and bowed their heads and let the snapshots of their lives flicker on the screen of their minds. Some images dissolved as quickly as they appeared; others lingered, snagged on the hooks of conscience. Things they would rather have forgotten, things that had a hold on them, things they couldn't let go. Other times, their minds became blank, with no heart to analyse.

And the minister consoled them and assured them they were forgiven. Ask and receive.

And the people filed past the altar where they left their sorrows and went to their homes and thought about their absolution.

And they vowed to try harder that week, to be kinder, more grateful, less quick to judge, more quick to act in justice. And the battle waged between days of altruism and days of meanness's, and inwardness.

Jesus, you understand don't you? We want to look forward with you, but so often we crane our necks to look back at the old path where things were familiar.

You challenge us to leave our past, and journey into a world of risk and sacrifice and at our most committed, we have felt the spirit of love and the comfort of faith and the solace of hope.

Lord we are sorry for not always being the best we can be. You have lifted us high on a mountain from where we can see the valley floor and you have offered us a choice:

To live as we have always lived in the valley of our hurts, or experience the cool fresh air of healing in ourselves and so see more clearly the pain of others.

This day we choose to follow the chosen one, already well beyond us, who urged us to follow and now walks on slowly waiting for us to catch up to journey together.

Before setting out on today's journey, ask...

What would it take to brighten my friend's day or my neighbours day?

What would it take to raise my voice in the face of injustice?

What would it take to lower my defences and let others in?

What would it take to forgive?

What would it take to suppress the small, mean talk and replace it with the big talk of hope and harmony?

And later today, in the west, as the sun dips below the rim of night, the constant moon already waxes in the east: together they give out heat and light.

This morning we open ourselves, ready to be remade of heat and light; two perfect conditions for the Spirit to grow and work in us.

Amen