

Community Circle Inspiration Resource

September 20, 2020

Possible Questions to Reflect On

- 1) Ignatian spirituality encourages every one of us to pray with the Scriptures, to use imaginative prayer. With one of the passages below, get settled (in a quiet place if possible), open your hearts to God knowing the Divine Mystery is with you, give your imagination free reign, and ask God to speak to you. Read the passage, becoming a participant in the story. Bring to life the people you are reading about. Share or question their attitudes. Listen deeply and respond to what is being revealed to you in the passage. Let yourself become moved by the experience. This is the living God speaking to you. What has been revealed? What difference does this make to you? Did it change anything about your relationship with the Divine?
- 2) As embodied spirits, we are able to encounter the Divine in a variety of ways such as dance, meditative walking, visual art, written word, and music. Are any of these a part of your everyday spiritual life? If yes, share something about that.
- 3) Two hymns for this Sunday are attached. One is a short Taizé piece from the skinny hymnal (Singing Our Faith) found in our pews; the other's from a Catholic hymnal occasionally used by the choir & congregation. Ponder the lyrics and share your thoughts.
- 4) John Bell* once said that hymnals are memory books, and that what we sing shapes what we believe. Do you agree with these statements? Disagree? Expand on his thoughts if you like.
*John Bell is a hymn writer, composer, lecturer and broadcaster, and an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and member of the Iona Community. (<https://iona.org.uk>)

Exodus 16:2-16, 19:20 – Bread from Heaven **New Revised Standard Version**

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?”^[a] For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’”

¹⁹ And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over until morning.” ²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul. And Moses was angry with them.

Matthew 20:1-16 – The Laborers in the Vineyard

New Revised Standard Version

²⁰ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage,^[a] he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.^[b] ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.^[c] ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’^[d] ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’^[e] ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”^[f]

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 2195

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -

joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es, the Lord is near, lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

WORDS: Jacques Berthier
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier

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Irregular

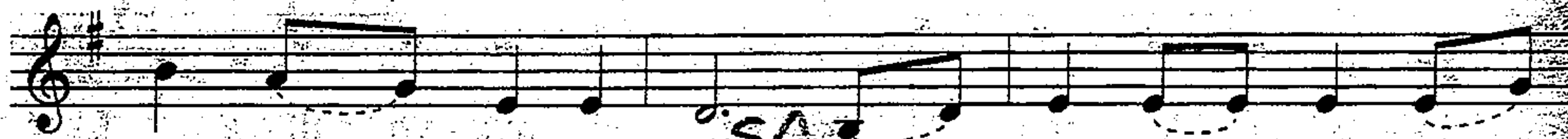
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376 Canticle of the Turning

Verses



All 1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
SA 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
All 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



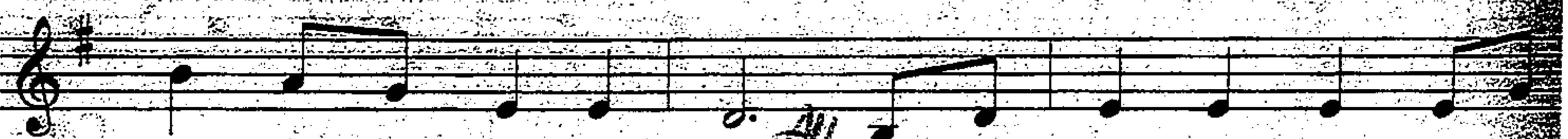
God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. *TB* You
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. *TB* Your
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. *TB* This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -

way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the

world is a - bout to turn!

world is a - bout to turn!

46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952
THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952
Publications, Inc.