“Pentecost” by Matthew Nelson

MID-WEEK MEDIATIONS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

10:00 AM VIA FACEBOOK LIVE
Our time together will begin with the ringing of a chime, followed by a minute of silence, and then a musical selection. Allow yourself to use this time to focus on your breathing, and be as fully present as you can be in whatever space you find yourself in, with the gathered community, at this very moment in time.

Opening  
by James M. Boice

*Leader* To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest,  
*Assembly* the Holy Spirit is given.

*Leader* To all who mourn and long for comfort,  
*Assembly* the Holy Spirit is given.

*Leader* To all who struggle and desire victory,  
*Assembly* the Holy Spirit is given.

*Leader* To all who sin and need a Savior,  
*Assembly* the Holy Spirit is given.

*Leader* To all who are strangers and want fellowship,  
*Assembly* the Holy Spirit is given.

*Leader* To all who hunger and thirst after righteousness,  
*Assembly* the Holy Spirit is given.

*Leader* To all who will come,  
*Assembly* the Holy Spirit is given.

Praise  
“Send forth your Spirit”  
by Steven C. Warner

Poem  
“Suddenly” by R.S. Thomas

Suddenly, after long silence, he has become voluble. He addresses me from a myriad directions with the fluency of water, the articulateness of green leaves; and in the genes, too, the components of my existence. The rock, so long speechless, is the library of his poetry. He sings to me in the chain-saw, writes with the surgeon's hand on the skin's parchment messages of healing. The weather is his mind's turbine driving the earth's bulk round and around on its remedial journey. I have no need to despair; I listen to the things round me: weeds, stones, instruments, the machine itself, all speaking to me in the vernacular of the purposes of the One who is.
**Lectio Divina**, Latin for "Divine Reading," is an ancient practice of praying, a gift from the Benedictine and Cistercian traditions with roots in the 6th century. Lectio Divina is a simple, yet rich practice of praying holy text, nourishing and deepening our relationship with God. It is an active practice that uses thoughts, images and insights to enter into a conversation with God. During this time, we will not treat the poem as a text to be studied, but rather as a still-speaking word.

1st Movement: Listening, *Lectio* - Settling and Shimmering
Listen for a word or phrase that feels significant right now, is capturing your attention even if you don’t know why.
*(Listen to the reading)*
- **You are invited to share your word or phrase.**

2nd Movement: Reflecting, *Meditatio* - Savoring and Stirring
Allow the word or phrase which caught your attention in the first movement to spark your imagination. Savor the word or phrase with all of your senses, notice what smells, sounds, tastes, sights, and feelings are evoked. Then, listen for what images, feelings, and memories are stirring, and welcome them in.
*(Listen to the reading)*
- **You are invited to share something that expresses what you have experienced.**

3rd Movement: Responding, *Oratio* - Summoning and Serving
Listen for an invitation rising up from your experience of prayer so far. Considering the word or phrase and what it has evoked for you in memory, image, or feeling, what is the invitation? This invitation may be a summons toward a new awareness or action.
*(Listen to the reading)*
- **You are invited to share something that expresses the calling you hear.**

4th Movement: Resting, *Contemplatio* - Slowing and Stilling
Move into a time for simply resting in God and allowing your heart to fill with gratitude for God’s presence in this time of prayer. Slow your thoughts and reflections even further and sink into the experience of stillness.
*(Listen to the reading)*
- **You are invited to rest in the presence of God and allow yourself to simply be.**
Leader       In the work we do this day,  
Assembly      May the risen Christ teach us. 
Leader       In the challenges we face this day 
Assembly      May the risen Christ guide us. 
Leader       Through the people we meet this day, 
Assembly      May the risen Christ renew us.

*The assembly may share particular intercessions or thanksgivings.*

Leader       As we respond to the hungers and hurts of the world,  
Assembly      May the Spirit of the risen Christ strengthen us.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer**

Leader       Generous Giver, you pour forth your extravagant Spirit without measure upon your whole creation. Teach us such generosity, that the fruits of our spirits and the works of our hands may continue to build your realm of blessing, love, and peace.

All          Amen.

**Going Out**

Leader       Holy Spirit, you have come to be with us.

All          Open our eyes to your presence.