



Pentecost QUESTION PROTEST BE AWKWARD 23rd June 2019



Hong Kong 2019

Call to thoughtfulness Speaking a foreign Language Alastair Reid

How clumsy on the tongue, these acquired idioms,
after the innuendos of our own. How far
we are from foreigners, what faith
we rest in one sentence, hoping a smile will follow
on the appropriate face, always wallowing
between what we long to say and what we can,
trusting the phrase is suitable to the occasion,
the accent passable, the smile real,
always asking the traveller's fearful question - what is being lost in translation?

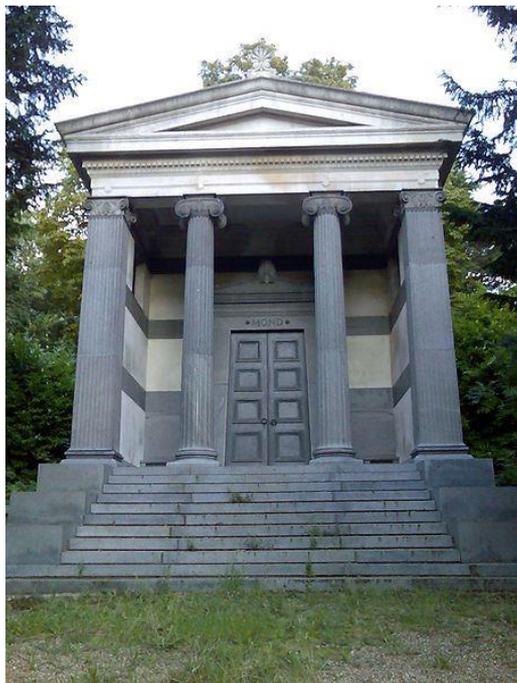
Something, to be sure. And yet, to hear
the stumbling of foreign friends, how little we care
for the wreckage of word or tense. How endearing they are,
and how our speech reaches out, like a helping hand,
or limps in sympathy. Easy to understand,
through the tangle of language, the heart behind
groping towards us, to make the translation of
syntax into love.



PRAYER Gathered but battered? God, draw close, just a little closer Psalm 43 URC p 64

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, give us your peace!

ISAIAH 65 1-9 happier inside tombs than living life?



REFLECTION Sitting in tombs!

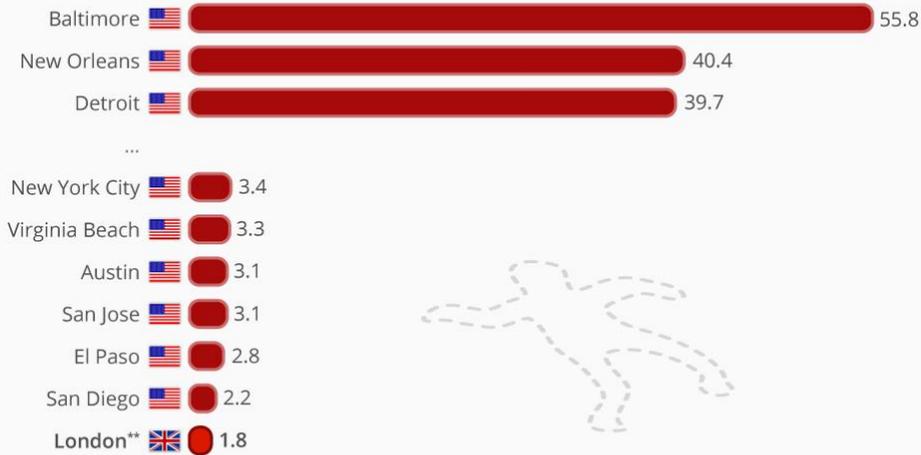
The Mond Mausoleum, Islington and St Pancras Cemetery
In the style of a Greek temple created for Ludwig Mond (1839-1909), German-born chemist who established the company Brunner, Mond & Co that later became ICI.

HYMN Imagine! Words Kim Fabricus Tune The Road and the miles to Dundee (with love to Trump)

Imagine a world where our leaders aren't liars, distorting reporting and spinning the news;
where all whistle-blowers and brave Jeremiahs are lauded, applauded and never abused.

London's homicide rate in perspective

U.S. cities with the highest/lowest homicide rate compared to London*



* Per 100,000 population. U.S. cities ranking of the 50 largest cities in the country. Calendar year 2017.

** London figure relates to the 12 months ending March 31, 2018.

© StatistaCharts

Sources: USA Today/Police department crime data, London Metropolitan Police, BBC

statista

Imagine a world where believers aren't fighting and shedding our blood in the name of their gods; where faith is delightful, enlightening, inviting, and never deployed for crusades or jihads.

Imagine a world where the markets aren't idols, bowed down to and worshipped in envy and greed; where wealth is released and the bankers are bridled, the poor have a plot and the famished a feed.

Imagine a world where there is no pollution, the air is so clear and the oceans are clean; where humans don't threaten the earth's evolution, the animals flourish and forests are green.

Imagine a world as the Lord has intended, where goodness and justice and beauty preside; a world we have broken that might yet be mended: the future is now, it is ours to decide.

HymnQuest ID: 40695

GALATIANS 3 23-29 ... imprisoned and guarded under the law

HYMN Life has a purpose Words John Campbell (Genesis 2 and 3) Tune Bunessan 212

Life has a purpose, just as in Eden: working and caring still makes life whole.
Just as for Adam, tending God's garden, we, in God's service, each have our role.

Life brings communion, just as in Eden: Eve cared for Adam, Adam for Eve;
friendship supports us, fam'ly sustains us, still we exist to give and receive.

Life can be risky, just as in Eden: freedom affords us chances to fail.
Will we or won't we? Could we or should we? Do we know all our actions entail?

Life still has serpents, just as in Eden: plausible reasons questioning God.
Trust seems naive and faithfulness pointless; personal daring makes us applaud.

Failure still deadens, just as in Eden, fracturing good things, leaving us sore.
Losing our gardens, facing our failures, leaves us downhearted? we need God more!

God of the Garden, warden of Eden, though we may fail you, yet you still care.
Hold us and help us, now outside Eden, love and support us? that is our prayer.

HymnQuest ID: 86772



LUKE 8 26 -39 If you believe this, you'll believe anything!

REFLECTION Is our faith big enough to do truth?

OFFERTORY HYMN Words Andrew Pratt Tune Rowan Tree 540

When those whose thoughts are crystal clear meet those who are confused,
reality can seem disturbed and sense can feel abused.
We stand upon a sheer abyss while vertigo takes hold:
the air above, the sea beneath, our actions uncontrolled.

Was that the way that man once felt, as though he was possessed;
estranged from all the world around, undignified, unblessed?
And then when Jesus spoke to him, that contact self-assured,
like raging swine his fever left, his sanity restored.

And still we find we need the help of those who stand as friends,
when in the nightmare of distress none hears or comprehends.
God stand beside us, let us be the channels of your grace,
that we might set each other free from feelings that debase.

HymnQuest ID: 14334

Time to be still: to retrace our footsteps and our words, to seek forgiveness and healing

to reclaim our capacity for compassion and creativity: to trust what God is calling us to be

HYMN 604 Holy Wisdom, lamp of learning Tune 702 Blaenwern

Lord, set your blessing upon us as we begin this new week together
Confirm us in the truth by which we rightly live; confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn
We ask not for what we want, but for what you know we need
As we offer ourselves and the days ahead for you and to you
May our faith, unbound from fear, pride or anxiety, speak of your boundless grace, forgiveness and love.
Make us your disciples, faithful disciples, open to the rush of your breath and the depth of your love
Whatever the path we choose, may we trust in your guiding wisdom
Help us rise to the journey as people of the way and many ways

The Blessing after which we sing

**May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place
May the Love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace**

