



The season of Epiphany 24th February 2019



Call to thoughtfulness:

From the Bridge

Claribel Alegria

I never found the order
I searched for
but always a sinister
and well-planned disorder
that increases in the hands
of those who hold power
while the others
who clamour for
a more kindly world
a world with less hunger
and more hopefulness
die of torture
in the prisons.
Don't come any closer
there's a stench of carrion
surrounding me.

INVOCATION Be still and know that I am God and there is none beside me



Welcome

We come, because we are not indifferent

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!

Psalm 37 1-11 a psalm for the self-righteous and indignant !

HYMN Songs of praise and protest Words Michael Foster Tune Lewis Folk Melody

Join the song of praise and protest, all the nations of the earth:
God who loves the poor and humble sings of dignity and worth.
Those the world has long rejected
take at last their rightful place,
sharing in the song of Hannah,
filled with unexpected grace!

God has rocked the earth's foundations, turned its values upside down:
strength is overcome by weakness and the humble wear the crown.
Now the pow'r of God in action
undermines the nations' pride,
lifts the poor and feeds the hungry,
pushing rich and proud aside.

Join the song of praise and protest as the voiceless find a voice,
as the pow'rless rise triumphant and the broken hearts rejoice.
Now the God of all creation
rights the long accepted wrongs;
let the voices of the nations
swell the liberation song.



LUKE 6 27-38

Do good to those you hate you!

OMG! Her too! Really?

Forgiveness isn't a detour or a shortcut. Yes, Christianity insists on forgiveness. But it calls us first to mourn, to lament, to burn with zeal, and to hunger and thirst for justice

Debbie Thomas Journeywithjesus.net

Prayer ... So that we may be engaged, not apathetic URC Prayer handbook p17

GENESIS 45 3-11 and verse 15

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him

Prayer ... We sometimes don't know where we are going URC Prayer handbook p16



Time to be still:

to retrace our footsteps and our words, to seek forgiveness and healing
to reclaim our capacity for compassion

HYMN Dare Tune Humility 313

Dare to think, though others frown; Dare in words your thoughts express;
Dare to rise, though oft cast down; Dare the wronged and scorned to bless.

Dare from custom to depart; Dare the priceless pearl possess
Dare to wear it in your heart; Dare, when others curse, to bless.

Dare what conscience says is right; Do what reason says is best;
Do with all your mind and might; Do your duty and be blest.

Dare from custom to depart; Dare the priceless pearl possess
Dare to wear it in your heart; Dare, when others curse, to bless

HYMN 690 When the bonds of love are broken, God of healing, reconcile

The tryst

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

