



Between times and not quite yet times November 25th 2018

Call to thoughtfulness Dreams and Nightmares (1 KINGS 3 5-9, 9 2-9) Walter Brueggemann

Last night as I lay sleeping,
I had a dream so fair . . .
I dreamed of the Holy City, well ordered and just.
I dreamed of a garden of paradise,
well-being all around and a good water supply.
I dreamed of disarmament and forgiveness,
and caring embrace for all those in need.
I dreamed of a coming time when death is no more.

Last night as I lay sleeping . . .
I had a nightmare of sins unforgiven.
I had a nightmare of land mines still exploding
and maimed children.
I had a nightmare of the poor left unloved,
of the homeless left unnoticed,
of the dead left ungrieved.
I had a nightmare of quarrels and rages
and wars great and small.

When I awoke, I found you still to be God,
presiding over the day and night
with serene sovereignty,
for dark and light are both alike to you.

At the break of day we submit to you
our best dreams
and our worst nightmares,
asking that your healing mercy should override threats,
that your goodness will make our
nightmares less toxic
and our dreams more real.

Thank you for visiting us with newness
that overrides what is old and deathly among us.
Come among us this day; dream us toward
health and peace,
we pray in the real name of Jesus
who exposes our fantasies.



Welcome

We come, welcome or not!

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!

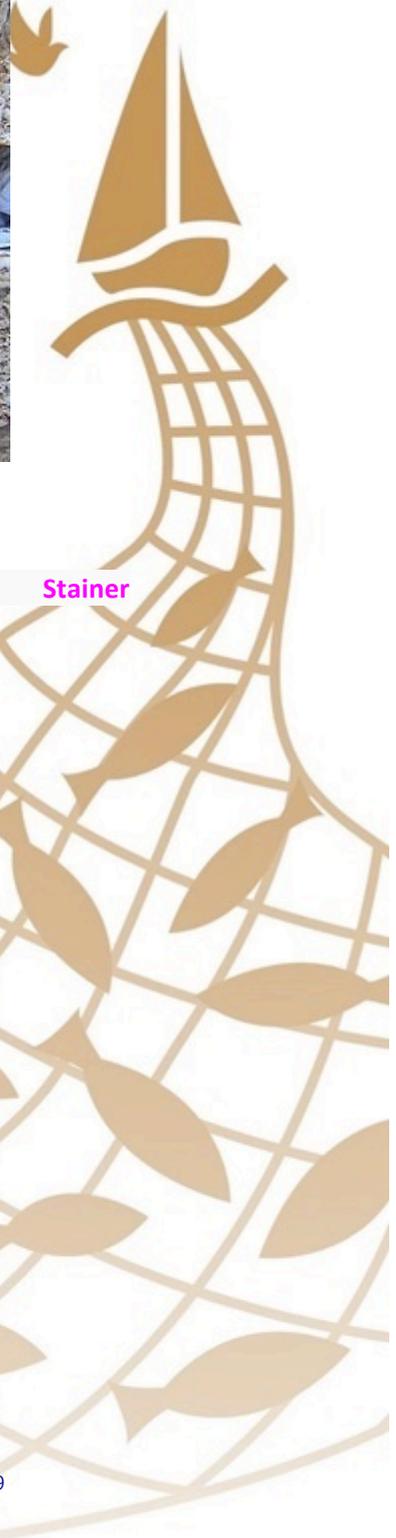
1 KINGS Ch 3 5-9 and Ch 9 2-9

what side of bed did you get out of?

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

The Lord appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. The Lord said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you made before me; I have consecrated this house that you have built, and put my name there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time. As for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised your father David, saying, 'There shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.'

"If you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut Israel off from the land that I have given them; and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight; and Israel will become a proverb and a taunt among all peoples. This house will become a heap of ruins; everyone passing by it will be astonished, and will hiss; and they will say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this house?' Then they will say, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their ancestors out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, worshipping them and serving them; therefore the Lord has brought this disaster upon them.'"



Are our prayers more like letters to Santa?

HYMN **Teach us how to pray** **Words Andrew Pratt** **Tune All for Jesus** **Stainer**

All the skill and art, each problem,
that the human heart can bear
we can bring before the God-head
through our thought and in our prayer.

Those who suffer seek God's comfort,
those whose lives are seared with pain,
bring your anguish in this moment,
let God share your stress and strain.

Here is boundless understanding,
here we find the strength of grace,
here God holds in loving kindness
as we worship, face to face.

Here God meets us in this moment
speaking in the present tense,
reaching deep beyond our heartache,
seeing through each false pretence.

We can stand for love is holding
each of us in constant care;
now we bring our hearts for healing
through our thought and in our prayer.

HymnQuest ID: 13689

Gospel of St JOHN 18 33 – 38

Pilate's big question

REFLECTION **So, what's your truth?**

The Fourth Word *My kingdom is not of this world*

From the Eight Words, a jazz suite based on the eight sayings of Jesus
Tim Boniface, Alto Saxophone



No crying he makes?

HYMN Perspectives Words Andrew Pratt Tune Intercessor 521 Piano

We meet to mark a change in our perspective, a time of celebration, yet of pain.
We look around and see familiar faces, though we move on, God's Spirit will remain.

Through many years, with intellectual rigour, we have explored through thought and prayer and praise,
the depth of love with which God has enfolded our lives through every shifting, changing phase.

In different places, times and situations, we play life's drama on another stage.
While true to faith, our practice is evolving, and once again we turn another page.

We offer thanks to God for all our history, for partners who have shared along the way
And now we trust that God will take us forward, to face the challenge of each passing day.

HymnQuest ID: 83618

Some time to be still and dwell with our thoughts

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN 497 Almighty Father of all things that be

A tryst (Spoken together)

*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 road 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 **786**

**"Things are not getting worse, they are getting uncovered
We must hold each other tight and continue to pull back the veil"**

**American author and social activist
Adrienne Maree Brown**