



Pentecost October 27th 2019

Never forget, justice is what love looks like in public

Cornel West Philosopher Union Theological Seminary and Harvard Divinity School

Call to thoughtfulness Idiot Psalm X

Scott Cairns, Catherine Paine Middlebush Chair in English at the University of Missouri.

A psalm of Isaak, hoarsely sung.

And yet again the wicked in his arrogance,
in his acutely hemmed and tapered sense
of self has found
sufficient opportunity to hound
the lowly.

And yet again, Great Enabler, the lowly,
draped in their accustomed modesty
and threadbare suits bereft
have seized the chance to suffer quietly, stage left.

Therefore, now again, I puzzle why,
O Holy Silence, why
do You appear to bide unheeding
some great distance hence?

Why, O Blithely *Un*apparent, do you remain
serenely imperceptible, even to our thinning
crew who stand here blinking at the sky?

I have no stomach for the newspapers, no heart
for the brilliant, flat-screen lit catalogue
of woes, though every item flickers,
one admits, wondrously produced
and duly sponsored.

See here. The wicked boasts about his late
successes, the grasping man complains
that he is cheated of his share, while all
the while the self-concerned continue
banking largely on Your accustomed reticence,
and must needs let out their trousers still
several measures more, having wagered well.

Pinched beneath their spinning machinations
and all their neat machines,
we grind our teeth,
yea, even as we sleep.





... even as we sleep

HYMN Who are these? Words June Boyce-Tillman Tune 690 (Last line of melody repeats) Vs 1 Solo

Who are these outside the barred gates?
These are those who share Christ's exile
while our world stays unaware.

*May we see the Christ inside
so that God is not denied.*

Who are these with hands extended,
bellies stretched and cups unfilled?
These are those who share Christ's hunger
showing God can still be killed.

Chorus

Who are these abused and bruised by
those responsible for care?
These are they who share Christ's passion
in a world deeply unfair.

Chorus

Who are these ensnared and fettered,
freedom gone and worth denied?
These are those who share Christ's prison
and the death that he defied.

Chorus

Who are these entrapped, addicted
to a substance that can harm?
These are they who share Christ's longing
for a place of bliss and calm.

Chorus

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Sirach 35:12-17

Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford.
For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold.
Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it; and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
for the Lord is the judge, and with him there is no partiality.
He will not show partiality to the poor; but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.
He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan, or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

A GATHERING PRAYER Poured out URC p100 based on Joel 2 23 - 32

Day by day Dear God of you three things I pray

To see you more clearly
To love you more dearly
To follow you more nearly Day by day

HYMN From unripe visions Words Andrew Pratt Tune 392 Rockingham

From unripe visions, dreams matured,
Through use of skills and gifts for God,
We drink the vintage of our youth,
In wisdom follow where Christ trod.

Such dreams and visions glimpse the grace,
That age discerns, that youth can know;
When grasped with courage, held with hope,
They mould our lives, in Christ we grow.

So let love form our words and ways
Of mutual wisdom, Christ-like care;
As old and young together seek,
Through dreams and visions, joy to share.

HymnQuest ID: 69893

Ruth 2 1-17 p 226 living on the edge

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A story from behind bars

We are among your called.
We have heard and answered your summons.
You have addressed us in the deep places of our lives.

In responsive obedience we testify,
as we are able, to your truth as it concerns our common life.

We thank you for the call,
for the burden of that call,
for the risk that goes with it,
for the joy of words given us by your growing spirit, and
for the newness that sometimes comes from our word.

We have indeed been in the counsel of your summoning spirit,
and so we know some truth to speak.

But we are, as well, filled with rich imagination of our own,
And our imagination is sometimes matched and overmatched
by our cowardice,
by our readiness to please,
by our quest for well-being.

We are, on most days, a hard mix of true prophet and wayward voice,
a mix of your call to justice
and our hope for *shalom*.

Here we are, as we are,
mixed but faithful,
compromised but committed,
anxious but devoted to you.

Use us and our gifts for
your newness that pushes us beyond all that we can say or imagine.

We are grateful for words given us;
We are more grateful for your word fleshed among us.

Called beyond Comfort Zone (On reading Jeremiah 23) Professor Walter Brueggemann, prayers for a privileged people

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OFFERTORY HYMN God's holding love Words Andrew Pratt Tune Melita 484

Here in the midst of greatest loss, reflecting on what might have been,
Naomi gave a kiss of peace, a kiss of comfort, yet release,
but Ruth would learn what love could mean, *yes she would learn what love could mean.*

The love these women would exchange was not ephemeral or weak,
'for where you go, I too will go', and through Ruth's actions love would grow,
she'd live her words, not simply speak, *yes live her words, not simply speak.*

Then in another age and span, an echo of that timeless grace,
embodied in all human loss, would hang and die upon a cross:
and Love now bore a human face, *yes Love now bore a human face.*

And now, at best, the church can show, incarnate hope, the Spirit's grace,
as love infuses heart and mind, that those who seek will surely find
God's holding love within this place, *let love be held within this place.*

HymnQuest ID: 13595

LUKE 18 9 -24 p 75 Tables turned

Prayer for mercy URC 101 sung response:

He became poor that we may be rich, loving the world and leaving his throne;
King of all kings and Lord of all lords, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone.

HYMN 283 The voice of God goes out to all the world Tune Woodlands 622

Lord, as we rise to leave this shell of worship, called to the risk of unprotected living,
willing to be at one with all your people; *Lord, we ask for courage.*

For all the strain with living interwoven, for the demands each day will make upon us
and for the love we owe the modern city; *Lord, make us cheerful.*

Give us an eye for opening to serve you; make us alert when calm is interrupted,
ready and wise to use the unexpected; *Lord, sharpen our insight.*

Lift from our life the blanket of convention, give us the nerve to lose our life to others,
be with your Church in death and resurrection; *Lord of all ages, may we greet you in our day!*

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

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