

Ascension and Pentecost

prayers from Holy Island

AIM

Two items, a prayer and meditation for Ascension and Pentecost from Holy Island. Note there are three photographs that go with this document.

INTRODUCTION

Occasionally there is a numinous quality to the air on Holy Island and the sense of it brings an apprehension of the Spirit who pervades all created things.

As this piece developed the idea of the Pentecost Spirit as the prodigal father took shape. Scandalously throwing aside all dignity he welcomes the home comers after thousands, maybe millions, of years of dwelling at a distance.

The photographs that accompany this are, of course, Holy Island scenes.

PENTECOST PRODIGAL

Sometimes, a silence-ful
of wonder,
settles in the bays round Holy Island;
pregnant with spirit, aching
to be freed to completion;
from within eternity,
out of the dark unknown,
the Spirit
gushes forth
in orgasmic joy and liberation,
drunken with love,
to ecstatic indignity
and ridicule,
baring his legs,
skirts lifted high;
no longer silent
but babbling rudely,
through the mouths of
ordinary people,
into the life of the world.

Prayer

A confession of need in Ascension tide

We have lost the freshness
of the surprise of his story.

We read the words
and know the ending
before it's begun.

Same old stories,
emptied of meaning
by so much re-telling
so much deconstruction
that even gimmickry

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and clever phrases
don't bring them alive again
for us.

Yet our lack of surprise
at his ways with people
speaks most strongly
about ourselves.....

for we need time to be alone with him
to meditate on our need;
to know what we have lost,
and what we have to gain -
love's richest,
painful blessing
of honesty
on the threshing floors of our lives.

Laid out and stretched,
beaten, battered,
bruised and exhausted,
we slowly, so slowly,
discover that it is ourselves we battle,
it is our Self that lays us out
and beats us down
and makes us apathetic,
hearing his call slightly,
glimpsing his exaltation from earth
and his return in the Spirit
from a distance too far.....

*Holy One, exalt us to ascension
and transcendence;
fly deeply into us
take us out of ourselves
into his ascended Self*

*and out of that lone silence,
become more whole,
we would be his serving people in the world.*

EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

If you want more seasonal materials please revisit the website.

Acknowledgements

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HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

If you have comments and particularly contributions to the prayer year, you can email the V4L prayer year coordinator via prayer@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk