

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:evangelism@vision4life.org.uk)