



Red carpet of Anemones

A photo by Zachi Evenor *Downloaded from* <https://www.flickr.com/photos>

Do Not Worry

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life[□]? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ “Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Luke 12:22-31 (A lectionary reading for today)

Silence, Prayer, And Communion Ending 9.30 a.m.

Silence

A time for thought...reflection...prayer

Prayer

Trust

Eternal God,
I have put my trust in you,
but my trust is fragile,
all too easily threatened
by the traumas and trials of daily life.

Though all else may fail,
teach me that you will not.

Remind me that you are greater than my mind can fathom,
sovereign over all,
mighty beyond words,
more that I can ever ask or imagine.

Though all else may fail,
teach me that you will not.

Remind me of all you have done across the years
renewing and redeeming,
bringing hope out of despair, joy out of sorrow
and life out of death.

Though all else may fail,
teach me that you will not.

Remind me that however fierce the storm,
you promise to see me through it
your love unchanging,
your purpose continuing through life and death.

Though all else may fail,
teach me that you will not.

Remind me of the ways that I personally have found that to be true,
the experiences I have had of your love,
goodness, help and strength.

Though all else may fail,
teach me that you will not.

Teach me, then, to put my hand in yours,
assured that your word is true,
your grace constant,
and your promises sure.

Though all else may fail,
teach me that you will not.

A prayer for peace

Heavenly Father we pray that Israel and Palestine may be freed of the scourge of violence, that leaders on both sides will find a route to lasting peace based on justice, mercy and forgiveness so that these lands may blossom once again and their peoples flourish. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. **Amen**

The Diocesan prayer for this week, said together:

**Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

And

Please stay for the communion even if not taking the bread and wine. You can come to the rail for a blessing (a brief prayer) – simply carry this sheet.

Communion

A moment to reflect on the times when we have not been loyal to God and His ways and have not cared for others.

In God's holy presence we call to mind our need for forgiveness.

Silence

We say together:

**Father, our sin has brought you sorrow,
has harmed those who share our life,
has been hurtful to ourselves.
We dare not say we have only lightly sinned;
Yet Christ has taken to himself the burden of it all.**

In Jesus' name may we be freed from the penalty and power of sin. **Amen.**

God of love and wonder, we sing your praises: with the great company of people, past and present, here and everywhere. We adore you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed holy, eternal God and Father;
in love greater than we can imagine you gave your only Son,
that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life.
Not as we would, but as we are able, we praise and thank you
for the reality of his birth, the glory of his humanity, the generosity of his life:
for his sacrifice on the cross, the wonder of his resurrection,
and the assurance that he lives for ever to save us;

for the gift of the Holy Spirit, for our calling to be his people,
for the hope all can find in him.

We say together:

**Remembering his life and sacrifice
we now come to his table
as he has invited us to do.
Send to us now, we pray, the Holy Spirit
so that we may indeed be your people,
and that as we share the bread and wine
we may share in the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Amen**

These are the gifts of God
for the people of God.

Please come to the rail now.

Ending

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

A post-communion prayer, said together:

**Fill us, good Lord, with your Spirit of love;
and as you have fed us with the one bread
of heaven,
so make us one in heart and mind,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The blessing

May God
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine,
lead us, feed us, multiply us,
and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator
now and through all eternity;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The next SPACE service will be on Wednesday June 19th

Do not worry!

Zachi Evenor is an Israeli photographer who has made a feature of capturing the stunning beauty of Israel's very rich and diverse flora.

In Luke 12:27 Jesus invites us to "consider how the wildflowers grow". Traditionally translations referred to "lilies" or "lilies of the field" but the plant Jesus had in mind was probably the Anemone. After rain and especially in spring these plants burst into flower, forming stunning carpets of red. The Hebrew name for the anemone is "Kalanyiot" comes from the word for bride and refers to the flower's beauty.

God our creator has made a world of great beauty and abundance. He clothes these flowers with beauty even though they only last for so a day or so, just as he provides food for the least significant birds. The point Jesus was making was that within this generous provision he has ample capacity to meet our needs.

Earlier Jesus had been approached by a man who wished to enlist his support about a disputed inheritance. (Luke 12:13). His response was to tell him the parable of the Rich Fool – a warning to him and to anyone whose focus is on their material possessions. In his greed and self-centredness the Rich Fool could not see beyond this world and gave no thought towards God or his fellow men. Jesus declined to give the original questioner his support and instead he challenged him to rethink his priorities.

Today's passage is like the other side of the coin. Jesus now turns to those with little by way of worldly goods. They, too, should reassess their approach to life; rather than wasting their time worrying they should trust God. Jesus is not suggesting that we should sit back passively and expect others to meet our needs. Nor is he showing callous disregard for people who are poor – that would be totally out of keeping with the compassion and concern he showed towards the needy and vulnerable. Jesus' point is to remind us to focus on things of lasting value, rather than the transient material things of this world. God will provide for whatever is essential for our lasting well-being.

The translation in The Message puts this very clearly:

What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.

Our secular society places great value on possessions and achievements. The one thing that has united politicians of all parties over recent years appears to be a shared belief in the primary importance of economic growth. Jesus is offering a radical alternative to this secular consensus.

Do we have the courage to put our trust in him?

Trust the past to the mercy of God,
the present to his love,
the future to his providence

St. Augustine of Hippo