

Reflection Thursday Lent 3 – 2021

These are difficult readings for reflection. You are obviously not among those who would not listen, who turn your backs on the Lord or you would not be here, whether in person or on line. Nor are you people who have come here looking for a sign or because you have been persuaded by erudite argument and reasoning. You are here in response to the gift of faith that you have lovingly embraced; the gift of faith offered to you by God, and also because you love Jesus Christ. You are here because the words of psalm (94/95) are your words. You, too, want to ring out your joy to the Lord and hail the God who saves us.

We gather to give thanks and praise to the Lord. We gather to bow and bend low - to kneel before the God who made us, precisely because we believe God is our shepherd who leads us to pasture. We are the flock that is led by the Lord. As followers of the Lord, we walk on holy ground not just here in church but everywhere. As Macrina Wiederkehr says: *You must learn to take off your shoes often. Taking off your shoes is a sacred ritual. It is a hallowed moment of remembering the goodness of space and time. It is a way of celebrating the **holy ground** on which you stand. If you want to be a child of wonder, cherish the truth that time and space are holy. Whether you take off your shoes symbolically or literally matters little. What is important is that you are alive to the **holy ground** on which you stand and to the **holy ground** that you are.* Being aware that the ground on which you walk is holy, you will never be able to turn your back on the Lord.

Holy ground is found at home, at work, in city streets and on coastal beaches.

Holy ground is where we have come from and where we are heading.

Holy ground is under our feet and in places where we fear to tread.

Holy ground is grass and mud, sand and puddles.

Holy ground is cracked pavements and polished shop floors.

Holy ground is finding beauty in ordinary places.

Holy ground is soft underfoot, it caresses your feet.

Holy ground is strong and firm, supporting your tiredness.

Holy ground is flowers springing up and hot coals burning.

Strangers, friends, fellow travellers recognising each other,
we all stand together on the same holy ground.