

Subject: Daily Prayer 30th April 2020
From: Vicky Pacey <vickyreadersapp@gmail.com>
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To: Anglican Church <anglicanpollenca@gmail.com>
BCC: kjgreenall@gmail.com

Good morning everyone

Let's spend a few moments of silence to still our minds and bodies before we worship.....

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 6:44-51

No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

Reflection from Canon Simon Stephens

Thursday 30 April 2020
Pandita Ramabai - Translator of the Scriptures 1922
John 6/ vs 44-51

This morning we find ourselves back on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, sitting with the disciples at the feet of the Man from Galilee as he expounds. His teaching on the 'Bread of Life'. "I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life". There is an urgency in Christ's teaching because he recognises the disciples inability to grasp the symbolism he is using ; and his days are numbered. There is perhaps a sense of frustration. The blessing and breaking of bread has been central to his ministry either on the lakeside or in the Upper Room, but perhaps for the most part, the disciples were blinded by their own fears and anxieties. They were aware of a developing conflict between Jesus and the Jewish Authorities and they feared its outcome. Today, we need to pray that a growing confidence in Jesus as Lord and Saviour will not be overcome by the doubts and fears of this age.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord our God, we thank you for the help you have given us so that we can stand before you, rejoicing in the certainty of faith. We thank you for guiding and leading our lives and for letting us see a goal ahead. Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone. Keep us strong and steadfast through all the turmoil of life. Help us to remain unshaken, for you walk with us holding us by the hand. Amen.

Blessing

Abide in Christ as he abides in us, and he will raise us up at the last day; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us, and all those we love and care about, now and always. Amen.