

Tuesday 31st March Passion Week

Enduring Love

Prayer:

My Father,

I come to you at the beginning of this day

To ask you to help and guide me.

Give me courage to face the problems that lie ahead'

And give me a heart wide open to the joys that you have prepared for me.

Forgive my many sins, that I may start this day anew.

And as you forgive me may I learn to be forgiving and compassionate

To others in return.

My Father.

I long to serve you aright. May all that I do and all that I say

Be pleasing in your sight.

Amen

Lectionary Reading

Song of Songs 3:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

3 ¹All night long on my bed

I looked for the one my heart loves;

I looked for him but did not find him.

²I will get up now and go about the city,

through its streets and squares;

I will search for the one my heart loves.

So I looked for him but did not find him.

³The watchmen found me

as they made their rounds in the city.

"Have you seen the one my heart loves?"

⁴Scarcely had I passed them

when I found the one my heart loves.

I held him and would not let him go

till I had brought him to my mother's house,

to the room of the one who conceived me.

⁵Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you

by the gazelles and by the does of the field:

Do not arouse or awaken love

until it so desires.

Singing the Faith, No 272

1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

2 There in the garden of tears
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

4 So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Psalm 102: 1-11 & 16-23

¹ Hear my prayer, LORD; let my cry for help come to you.

² Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.

³ For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers.

⁴ My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food.

⁵ In my distress I groan aloud and am reduced to skin and bones.

⁶ I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.

⁷ I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof.

⁸ All day long my enemies taunt me; those who rail against me use my name as a curse.

⁹ For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears

¹⁰ because of your great wrath, for you have taken me up and thrown me aside.

¹¹ My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

¹⁶ For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory.

¹⁷ He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

¹⁸ Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:

¹⁹ "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth,

²⁰ to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death."

²¹ So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem

²² when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD.

²³ In the course of my life^[a] he broke my strength; he cut short my days.

¹⁶ For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory.

¹⁷ He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

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²² when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD.

²³ In the course of my life he broke my strength; he cut short my days.

Closing Prayer and Blessing:

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love,
to serve your purpose, and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.