

## Tuesday 16th March – Sitting Room



### John 5:1-18

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup> In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. <sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' <sup>7</sup> The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' <sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' <sup>9</sup> At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. <sup>10</sup> So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.' <sup>11</sup> But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk."' <sup>12</sup> They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?' <sup>13</sup> Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there.

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.' <sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. <sup>16</sup> Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. <sup>17</sup> But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is still working, and I also am working.' <sup>18</sup> For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

The people waiting at the pools at Bethesda (or Beth-zatha) would have been waiting for some time. From the place they were they were able to see, hear and sense the world around them. The poolside being their window, hearing and seeing those seeking the healing waters.

What can you see from your sitting room window? Houses, cars, countryside, the sea? Take some time to sit and look out of your window and pray for the world outside, those passing by and what their days may hold.

**To listen to:**

The Pool of Bethesda by Marshall McDonald

<https://open.spotify.com/track/0lcUtXWJCUreDssewWLGDU?si=3XR2TDnHSnmkT1mqN87UgQ>

O Lord Hear My Prayer (Taizé Chant) performed by St Thomas Music Group

<https://youtu.be/LKyU5BIlxc0>

**By my Window have I for Scenery by Emily Dickinson**

By my Window have I for Scenery

Just a Sea—with a Stem—

If the Bird and the Farmer—deem it a “Pine”—

The Opinion will serve—for them—

It has no Port, nor a “Line”—but the Jays—

That split their route to the Sky—

Or a Squirrel, whose giddy Peninsula

May be easier reached—this way—

For Inlands—the Earth is the under side—

And the upper side—is the Sun—

And its Commerce—if Commerce it have—

Of Spice—I infer from the Odors borne—

Of its Voice—to affirm—when the Wind is within—

Can the Dumb—define the Divine?

The Definition of Melody—is—

That Definition is none—

It—suggests to our Faith—

They—suggest to our Sight—

When the latter—is put away

I shall meet with Conviction I somewhere met

That Immortality—

Was the Pine at my Window a “Fellow

Of the Royal” Infinity?

Apprehensions—are God’s introductions—

To be hallowed—accordingly—

*Image: View from the Artist's Window, Grove Street by Robert Frederick Blum (c. 1900, Oil on Canvas, Metropolitan Museum New York).*