



Words for the Way

An online Lent Course for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Water

Wednesday 8 March



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Matthew 20:17–28

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.”

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” He said

to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Water, water to drink, water of life, water of Baptism, still waters. There are many references to water in the scriptures and Jesus spoke of water, was baptised in the waters of the River Jordan and described himself as the living water. Water is essential for life, and in today’s society and life so much focusses on status, hierarchy and who is in power. In today’s Gospel we’re reminded that Jesus, Son of Man, Son of God came to the earth for all, to give his life for all no matter who we are or our status in society. The Christian faith acknowledges this in many ways, including Baptism where we respond to God’s call in love on our lives.

Today you’re invited to reflect on the role water has in your life – for sustaining life – physical and spiritual. You may wish to do this as you drink a glass of water, or on a walk by a body of water or observing water in the form of snow on the ground around you.

Prayer from Columban Interreligious Dialogue

Gracious God,

Forgive our neglect of what you have entrusted to us as stewards.

We confess that we take your gift of water for granted

And acknowledge the need for repentance and action.

We are reminded of your power and love with every nourishing drink,

And every cleansing shower.

Empower us to speak for those who are without, and to work to ensure justice

And peace for all.

Amen.



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The word for each day is taken from Trevor Hudson’s *40 words for 40 days Pauses for Lent*.