



Words for the Way

An online Lent Course for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

For God so Loved the World

Wednesday 19 April



For God so Loved the World..., from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55676> [retrieved April 17, 2023]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rampton_Parish_Church_Millennium_Banner_-_geograph.org.uk_-_680465.jpg.

John 3:16-21

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

'For God so loved the world' these are familiar words from John 3:16, heard on the Second Sunday in Lent in Jesus' response to Nicodemus and then set for the Daily Eucharist readings in this the second week after Easter. As we hear these words again the other side of Easter do they resonate differently with you to when you've heard them before, perhaps towards the beginning of Lent? Thinking of these words in the context of the later verses and the context of light and how that impacts people's deed, how does this speak to you today?

For God So loved the world by *Malcolm Guite*

The whole round world, in Greek the total *cosmos*,
Is all encompassed in this loving word;
Not just the righteous, right on, and religious,
But every one of whom you've ever heard,
And all the throng you don't know or ignore,
For everyone is precious in his sight,
Chosen and cherished, loved, redeemed before
The circling cosmos ever saw the light.

He set us in the world that we might flourish
That His beloved world might live through us
We chose instead that all of this should perish
And turned his every blessing to a curse.
And now he gives himself, as Life and Light
That we might choose in Him to set things right.

To listen

The Crucifixion: God so Loved the World by John Stainer, one version is by The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge.

Of the Father's Love Begotten, one version is by Ordinary Time.

These can be found on a playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/72omFXFjUHKiHcvk9OYv4?si=0b356c51045b422b>



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