



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney's Lent Course 2024

THE WAY TO THE CROSS

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY



WORDS FROM OTHERS REFLECTING ON GOD'S PROMISES

Today you're invited to reflect on words from others.

For the poetry what images does it evoke for you? Does it chime with specific parts of the readings from Sunday? How does it speak to you and your journey of faith.

Some short quotes about the Cross are provided for reflection. Do you agree or disagree with what the author states, how does apply in your daily Christian life?

There is a poem on Abraham by Jessica Powers, who was an American Carmelite nun (Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit) who continued to publish under the name Jessica Powers after she entered the Carmel in Milwaukee. There is also a poem by Charles W. Everest.

"Christians must lean on the Cross of Christ just as travellers lean on a staff when they begin a long journey." *St. Anthony of Padua*

"All God's plans have the mark of the cross on them, and all His plans have death to self in them." *E. M. Bounds*

"The summation of the life of Jesus in the symbol and the sign of the cross is not meant so much as an act of "taking up" the cross, as it is of "taking the cross inside." The direction of the sign of the cross is inward, which suggests embracing and internalizing the life of Jesus. Nevertheless, this inward direction suggests that, starting with the historical events of the life of Jesus, we live these events here and now, appropriating them outside time and space, as we become one with the timeless Christ." *Andreas Andreopoulos*

Collect for Second Sunday of Lent

God of patience and humility, in your love you gave your Son to be rejected and raised up on a cross.

Gather us under its shadow and open our eyes to its mystery, that we may share even now in the life that is from above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Abraham by Jessica Powers, 1905-1988

I love Abraham, that old weather-beaten
unwavering nomad; when God called to him,
no tender hand wedged time into his stay.
His faith erupted him into a way
far-off and strange. How many miles are there
from Ur to Haran? Where does Canaan lie,
or slow mysterious Egypt sit and wait?
How could he think his ancient thigh would bear
nations, or how consent that Isaac die,
with never an outcry nor an anguished prayer?
I think, alas, how I manipulate
dates and decisions, pull apart the dark,
dally with doubts here and with counsel there,
take out old maps and stare.
Was there a call at all, my fears remark.
I cry out: Abraham, old nomad you,
are you my father? Come to me in pity.
Mine is a far and lonely journey too.

Taken from Jessica Powers (1999) The Selected Poetry of Jessica Powers, ICS Publications, Washington DC.

Take Up your Cross by Charles William Everest

Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
If you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, let not its weight
Fill your weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up,
Shall brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross then in his strength
And ev'ry danger calmly brave,
To guide you to a better home,
And vict'ry over death and grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

“If any want to
become my
followers, let
them deny
themselves and
take up their
cross and follow
me”

Mark 8.34

Usual Weekly Pattern

Sunday
RCL Eucharist
Readings and Collect

Monday
Delving Deeper into
the Readings

Tuesday
Words from Others
(sacred & secular)

Wednesday
Resources from the
Arts

Thursday
Contemplative Acts

Friday
Personal Reflection
- what this means to
me

Saturday
Acts & Deeds