



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney's Lent Course 2024

THE WAY TO THE CROSS

TUESDAY 5 MARCH



WORDS FROM OTHERS FOLLOWING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AND LIVING THEM IN OUR HEARTS.

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.

There is a poem by George Herbert connected to the Gospel reading and a contemporary poem connected to the Ten Commandments.

The quotes to ponder include a translation of Psalm 19.7-9 and quotes about the cross and God. Do they resonate with you or give you fresh insights into the readings for the Third Sunday of Lent?

God's perfect law revives the soul.
God's stable rule guides the simple.
God's just demands delight the heart.
God's clear commands sharpen vision.
God's faultless decrees stand forever.
God's right judgments keep their truth.

International Consultation on English in the Liturgy, The Psalter: Psalm 19.7-9

he cross ... raises the question whether we do not need a presupposition beyond the one we have adopted.... The new hypothesis: We are being saved. We are indeed coming through disaster, but we will not be lost. The cross does not deny the reality of death. It reinforces it. It denies its finality.

H.Richard Niebuhr

There is no better proof for the existence of God than the way year after year he survives the way his professional friends treat him.

Frederick Buechner

Collect for
Third Sunday of
Lent

Father of mercy,
alone we have no
power in ourselves
to help ourselves.
When we are
discouraged by our
weakness,
strengthen us to
follow Christ, our
pattern and our
hope; who lives and
reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for
ever.
Amen.

Sion by George Herbert

LORD, with what glorie wast thou serv'd of old,
When Solomons temple stood and flourished!
Where most things were of purest gold;
The wood was all embellished
With flowers and carvings, mysticall and rare:
All show'd the builders, crav'd the seers care.

Yet all this glorie, all this pomp and state
Did not affect thee much, was not thy aim;
Something there was, that sow'd debate:
Wherefore thou quitt'st thy ancient claim:
And now thy Architecture meets with sinne;
For all thy frame and fabrick is within.

There thou art struggling with a peevish heart,
Which sometimes crosseth thee, thou sometimes it:
The fight is hard on either part.
Great God doth fight, he doth submit.
All Solomons sea of brasse and world of stone
Is not so deare to thee as one good grone.

And truly brasse and stones are heavie things,
Tombes for the dead, not temples fit for thee:
But grones are quick, and full of wings,
And all their motions upward be;
And ever as they mount, like larks they sing;
The note is sad, yet musick for a King.

The Ten Commandments by Jericho Brown

But I could be covetous. I could be a thief.
I could want and work for. I could wire and
Deceive. I thought to fool the moon into
A doubt. I did some doubting. Lord,
Forgive me. How will I speak of Joe Adams
And his wife? In New Orleans that winter,
I waited for a woman to find me shirtless
On her back porch. Why? She meant it
Rhetorically and hit me with open hands.
How many times can a woman say why
With her hands in the moonlight? I counted
Ten like light breaking hard on my head,
Ten rhetorical why's and half a moon. Half
Nude, I let her light into me. I could be last
On a list of lovers Joe Adams would see and first
To find his wife slapping the shit out of me.
I could be sick and sullen. I could sulk
And sigh. I could be a novel character in
A novel by E. Lynn Harris, but even he'd allow
Me some dignity. He loves black people too
Much to write about a wife whipping a man's ass
On a night people in Louisiana call cold.
He'd have Joe Adams run out back and pull
Her off of me. He wouldn't think I deserved it.

Jericho Brown's "The Ten Commandments" first appeared in the New Madrid Poetry Journal.

Let the words of
my mouth and
the meditation of
my heart be
acceptable in
your sight, O
Lord, my
strength and my
redeemer.

Psalm 19.14

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