



Anoint

Tuesday 28th January



Photo by Matea Gregg on Unsplash

Scripture: Psalm 40.1-11

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have not required.
Then I said, 'Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.'

To reflect

In Sunday's Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus speaks the prophecy from Isaiah 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.'

When was the last time you were anointed – at your Baptism, at affirmation of Baptism, when you were ill or at a healing service. When we speak of anointing we often think about oils being used – in Christian rituals with oils blessed at a Chrism Mass (when ordained and licensed ministers renew their vows). Perhaps thinking about anointing that happens in a coronation service. Anointing is often used to speak about the Holy Spirit being felt keenly as a Holy presence.

What do you think about when you hear the word anointing?

Anoint by Carlina Duan

in the waiting room, I watched women snap
rubber bands around their wrists, running
their hands through hair to tame thick flames
of want. & didn't I understand, too,
this desire? its tide pressed in: some
days, a chalice; other days, a charm.
all summer long, my aunties pressed offerings
to my lips: jujube dates, porcelain bowls of
star anise and knotted herbs, pungent
& steaming. *Drink this; Eat this; This will*
heal the uterine muscle—my muscle gone silent,
emptied of speech. in the waiting room, we waited
to be told of our utility, listening again
as the automated fountain rang & rang with water.
in the parking lot, my aunts wrung their hands.
on the radio, another headline about a foreign
ambassador; a borderline; a wildfire come
& gone. somewhere, a field of flowers erupted
out of black grass. inside, we crushed plastic
bottles of water and listened for our names.

Source: *Poetry* (June 2024)

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rj2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'Requiem VI: The Lord is My Shepherd' by John Rutter (one version is by the Choir of King's College Cambridge). This setting of Psalm 23 is part of John Rutter's Requiem.
- 'The Anointing' by Rupert Gregson-Williams, this is taken from the Netflix Series the Crown and is the music used as they depicted the Anointing of Queen Elizabeth at her coronation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.