



DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN & ORKNEY

FROM ASHES TO FIRE: A JOURNEY FROM LENT TO PENTECOST

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Resources from the Arts - Mercy and Love

On Tuesdays & Wednesdays we'll explore words from others and resources from the arts - music, art, poetry to help us reflect and engage deeper. The Christian Life involves many different actions, engagement with scripture and the world.

As you reflect on these images and pieces music what do they make you think about the theme of faith and transformation?



The music offered for reflection during this course will involve hymnody (old and new), music contemporary and classical and is suggested to provoke reflection.

- The Parable of the Prodigal Son has inspired many composers and lyricists to create sacred and secular music. These include *Fire in Bone* by The Killers, *The First Time* by U2, *Prodigal Son* by Reverend Robert Wilkins, made famous by the Rolling Stones cover version. In the classical music genre there have been oratorios, ballets, cantatas and ballets by Benjamin Britten, Sergei Prokofiev, Hugo Alfvén, Claude Debussy and Marc-Antoine Charpentier.
- Worship songs and hymns include *Let his praise be on our lips* by Satellite, *Home Right Now* by New Scottish Hymns Band,
- *Quatre motets pour le temps de penitence* by François Poulenc. These four choral pieces are for 'the time of penitence'.



Samuel Songo (Rhodesian, 1929–ca. 1977), *The Prodigal Son*, 1954. Soapstone, h. 26 cm. Source: *Christliche Kunst in Afrika*, p. 254. via <https://artandtheology.org/tag/prodigal-son/>



*Attributed to Bassano, Francesco, II (Italian painter, 1549-1592)
The Return of the Prodigal Son - Il figlio prodigo, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery.*

The description of the image is:

This painting is an interpretation of the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15. 21-24). In the centre left the son, dressed in rags and barefoot, kneels before his father asking to be forgiven. The father, in contrast to the son, is dressed in a rich crimson robe and green overgarment. He reaches down to embrace his son in forgiveness. Two servants follow the father's instructions: to the left of the son, one brings him the 'best robe', and, in the bottom right, the other kills the fatted calf for the banquet.