

praying...

transforming
church
transforming
lives

10 days to

read

reflect

pray

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act."

Psalm 37:5

Day 1 making disciples

"...You also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit." Ephesians 1:13

Reflect

When we respond to the call of Jesus to follow him, our lives are transformed by the Holy Spirit. Think through your next 24 hours. What opportunities might God give you to serve him? How committed am I to being part of God's purposes whatever each day holds?

Pray

Almighty and eternal God,
to whom we must all give account:
guide with your Spirit the parish of...
that we may be faithful to the mind of Christ
and seek in all our purposes
to enrich our common life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Maggi Hambling / **Good Friday (walking on the water)** from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, © TMCP, used with permission.



Day 2 increasing believers

“God our Saviour wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1Timothy 2:4

Reflect

Our part is to pray persistently for those who don't yet know the Lord and to be willing to share our faith as opportunities arise.

How confident am I in sharing my faith?

Who am I praying for?

The Holy Spirit may want to bring to birth new types of worshipping communities in my area which will enable people from different backgrounds to encounter Jesus. Am I open to that?

Pray

Almighty God,
who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

John Muafangejo / **Our God for all people** from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, © TMCP, used with permission.



Day 3 growing youth and children's ministry

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done."

Psalm 78:4b

Reflect

We have the responsibility to pass on the Gospel which is beautiful and precious - a pearl of great price - to the next generation.

How attractive, safe and spiritually enriching is my church for children and young people?

Who are the 'next generation' in my life and how do I support their spiritual growth?

Pray

O God, we pray and beseech you
to guide and protect young people
As they grow up in our world today.
Give to them the courage and strength
to make the right decisions as they journey through life.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
may they come to know and
experience your loving care.
Amen.

Mark Cazalet / **Nathaniel (asleep under a fig tree)** from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, © TMCP, used with permission.



Day 4 developing lay leaders recruiting more clergy

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-13

Reflect

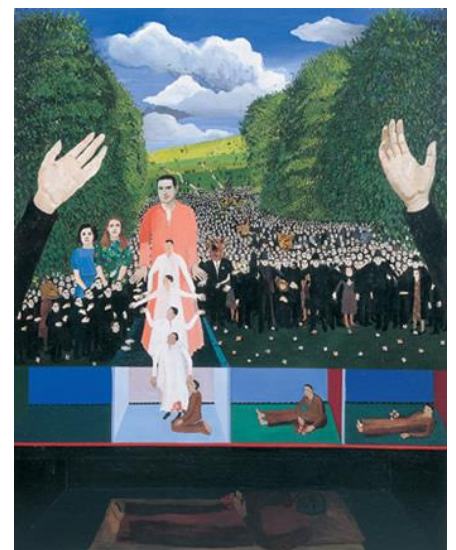
Leadership is one of the gifts that the Lord gives to His people. Give thanks for the different people in your church / the wider church, who are using their gifts to build up the body of Christ thereby bringing glory to the Lord.

Is God prompting you to serve him in a new way?

Pray

God our Father,
you called Abraham and Moses to lead
your people into a promised land
and filled them with your spirit:
raise up leaders for your Church in this generation,
who will make your word known
and be faithful stewards of your mysteries,
that your people may be nourished with
the word of life and bread of heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Euryl Stevens / **The raising of Lazarus**
from the Methodist Modern Art
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Day 5 cultivating community partnerships

*Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth.” Matthew 5:13
“Love your neighbour as yourself.” Luke 10:27*

Reflect

Jesus not only transforms our lives but He calls us to go into our communities to demonstrate His love, often in practical ways, so that other’s lives may also be transformed.

In what ways is that happening in my parish?

What is my role in that engagement?

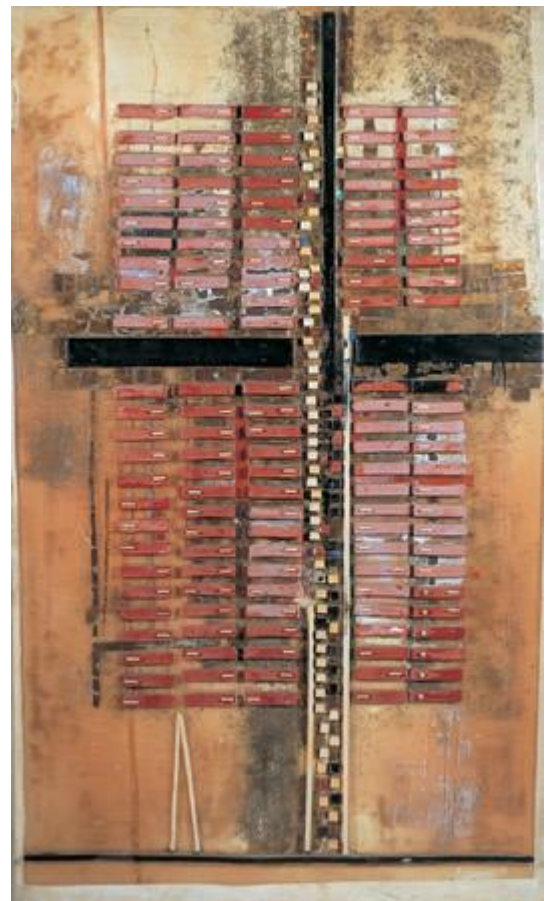
Just a few grains of salt can make a big difference. How ‘salty’ am I?

Pray

Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Make yourself known through me.
Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
Speak through me to others.
Amen.

Episcopal Church of USA

Michael Edmonds / **The cross over our
city** from the Methodist Modern Art
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Day 6 reaching beyond borders

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:4-5

Reflect

As Christians we are part of a global family. We are called to reach beyond our borders and connect with other parts of the country and the wider world; both sharing resources and learning from each other.

How do I reach beyond my comfort zone and do this?

How is my church reaching beyond its borders to other parts of this country/the wider world?

How might I learn from Christians who are different from me?

Pray

O God who has called men and women in every land
to be a holy nation, a royal priesthood,
the Church of your dear Son;

Unite us in mutual love across the barriers of race and culture,
And strengthen us in our common task of being Christ
And showing Christ to the world he came to save.

Amen

John Kingsnorth

Ghislaine Howard / **The washing of the feet** from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, © TMCP, used with permission.



Day 7 nurturing education

“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:5

Reflect

...on the church and community schools you know and the impact they have on children’s lives.

Ask God to equip head teachers, staff and governors with the courage to embrace the Christian distinctiveness of their school.

Pray

Lord of all things

We thank You for the women and men

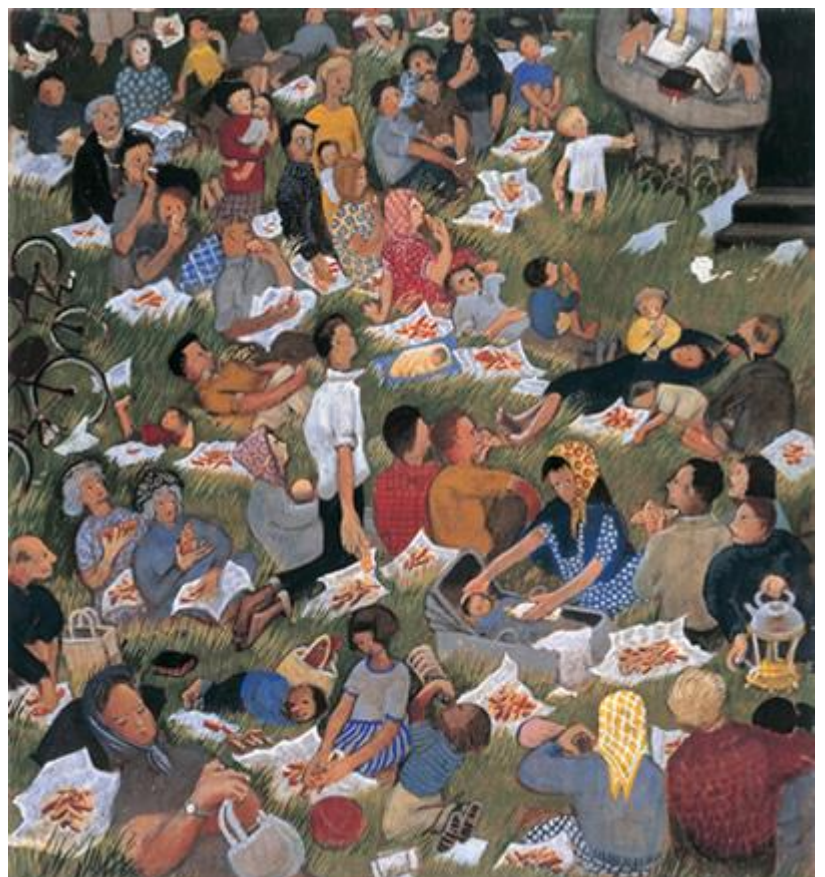
You have called to work in education.

Bless their hearts with Your love, joy and peace.

Season their words with Your patience, kindness and goodness.

Fill their minds with Your faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Amen.



Eularia Clarke / **The five thousand** from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, © TMCP, used with permission.

Day 8 encouraging generous giving

“Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair.”

John 12:3

Reflect

Mary gave a costly gift out of love for Jesus.

How does the giving of my time, my resources and my money reflect all I have received from God's bounteous love?

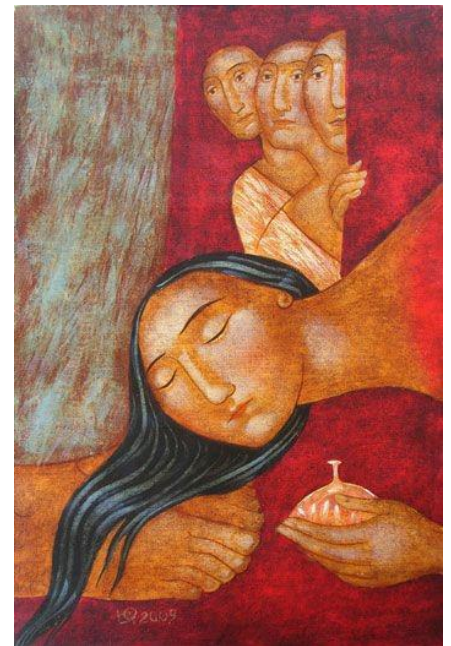
Do I need to change my levels of giving, either of finance or of time?

Pray

Giver of all good things, we thank you:
for health and vigour,
for the air that gives the breath of life,
the sun that warms us,
and the good food that makes us strong;
for happy homes and for the friends we love,
for all that makes it good to live.
Make us thankful and eager to repay,
by cheerfulness and kindness,
and by a readiness to help others.
Freely we have received; let us freely give,
in the name of him who gave his life for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)



Julia Stakanova / The unction of Christ

Day 9 sharing expertise communicating effectively

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

Reflect

Administration can sap energy, time and focus. Sharing expertise with others can save a lot of time-wasting.

Communication is vital in enabling our “lights to shine” in the wider community.

How effective is the administration and communications in your parish or location? Is it a shared burden?

Pray

O God, whose word is truth
and in whose light we see light,
guide those who tell the story of our times
through word and image.

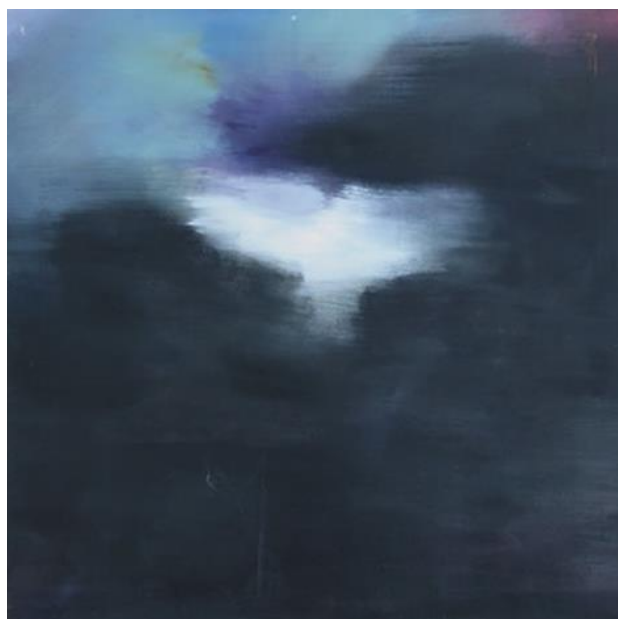
Make them seekers after truth
and advocates of human dignity.

Grant discernment to all
who rely on their labours,
and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world,
awaken in us a sense of wonder
at your presence
and of longing for your peace,
through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

John Brokenshire / **Untitled -
Pentecost** from the Methodist
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Day 10 improving church buildings

“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

Haggai 1:4

Reflect

Are our buildings fit for purpose?

Reflect on how much time, effort and money you devote to the upkeep of your own home.

Now reflect on how much time, effort and money you devote to the upkeep of the Lord’s house...and allow the Lord to speak to you.

Pray

Almighty God,

You search us and know us:

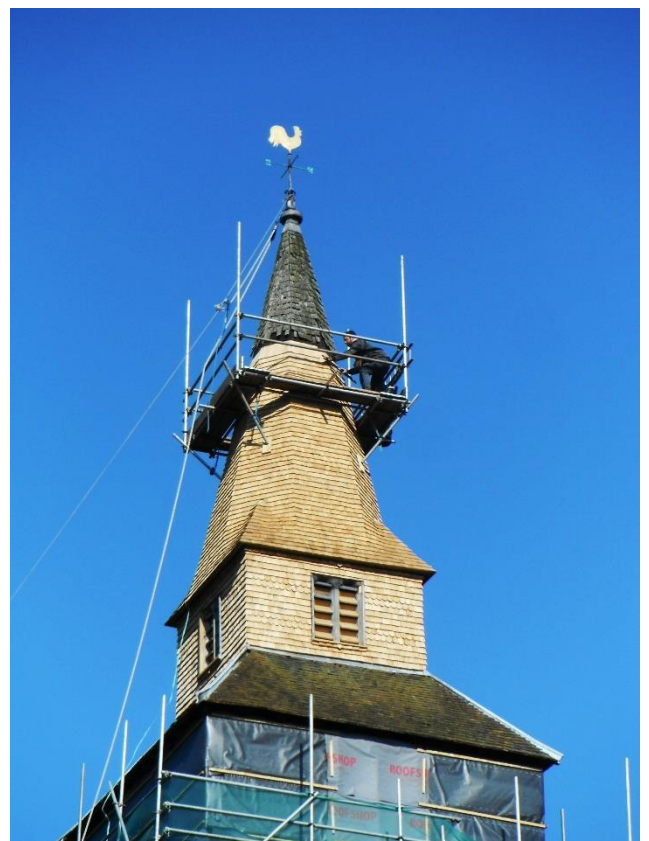
May we rely on you in strength

And rest on you in weakness,

Now and all our days:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



**God of our salvation,
you sent your Son to draw all people
into your abundant life:
grant that your church,
empowered by your Spirit,
may be the instrument
of your transforming purposes in the
world,
that all may know your power
to heal and to save.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Acknowledgements:

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