



Food For The Evergreen Journey

Aug.—Sept.
2014

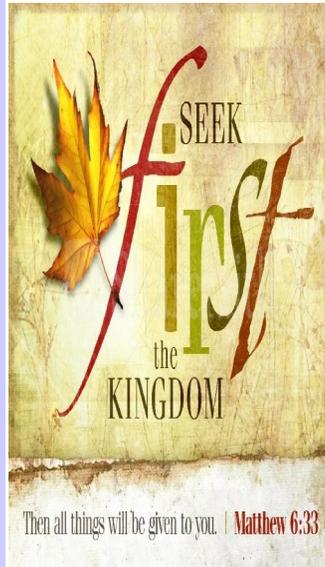
Produced by Members and Friends of Evergreen Christian Church
in Evergreen, Colorado. Rev. G. Duncan Miller, Pastor

Vol. 4 Issue 8&9

Celtic Prayer

Come, my Lord
My light, my way;
Come, my lantern
Night and Day;
Come, my healer,
Make me whole,
Come, my Savior,
Protect my soul;
Come, my King,
Enter my heart;
Come, Prince of
Peace
Never depart.

The Spiritual Life (saying by Henri Nouwen)



“To pray means to open your hands before God. It means slowly relaxing the tension which squeezes your hands together and accepting your existence with an increasing readiness, not as a possession to defend, but as a gift to receive.”

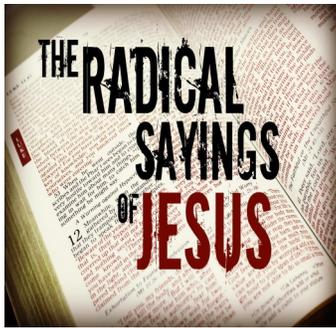
“What is most intimate is also what frightens us most. Where we are most ourselves, we are often strangers to ourselves. That is the painful part of being human....The mystery of the spiritual life is that Jesus desires to meet us in the seclusion of our own heart, to make his love known to us there, and free us from our fears and to make our own deepest self known to us.”

“The mystery of God’s presence can be touched only by a deep awareness of God’s absence. It is in the center of our longing for the absent God that we discover God’s footprints, and realize that our desire to love God is born out of the love with which he has touched us.”

*“The fruit
of humility
and com-
passion is
joy”*

JESUS WAS A RADICAL

Written by: Gary Severson, June 28, 2014



**Jesus was
a radical!
Will you
be radical
enough
to accept
him at his
word?**

Jesus was a radical! He turned the “religion” of his day on its ear. Jesus showed the people that there is a better way than being in bondage to the “religious industrial complex”, no matter what form that may take. Just think of it! Jesus picked grain and healed people on the Sabbath. He regarded women, slaves, tax collectors, lepers, prostitutes and other second class citizens and social outcasts as precious in God’s sight. He said that it is better to serve than to be served. He instructed people to love their enemies instead of seeking revenge, and he said that one must lose their life in order to gain it. How much more radical could a person be in their time and culture than Jesus? It is no wonder that the leaders of the religious establishment wanted to kill him.

Perhaps one of the most radical things Jesus did was to instruct his disciples how to pray as recorded in the eleventh chapter of Luke. We take it for granted when we pray the Lord’s Prayer every Sunday at ECC, beginning with the words “Our Father...” The Hebrew name for God is YHWH, spelled yud-hay-vav-hay. In Jesus day, Jews could not and would not pronounce the name of God out loud – it was too sacred to even be whispered. When God’s name appears in Jewish scripture or liturgy, the reader substitutes the Hebrew word "adonai" which means "my Lord" or often just "the Lord".

So, when Jesus’ disciples, on that Galilean hillside, asked him to teach them to pray, we can only imagine their shock when Jesus began by inviting them to refer to God as “Father”; and not only Father, but “Abba”. “Abba” is an Aramaic word literally meaning “Daddy”; it was a common term used by children to lovingly address their father. This was so radical, that I can only imagine the disbelief of Peter, John, James, Andrew and the others, all Jewish, of what their ears were hearing Jesus saying to them.

But this is what Jesus was inviting his disciples to do by referring to the Creator of the Universe – the great “I Am”, as Daddy. Jesus wanted his disciples to have a new relationship with God through himself. Instead of crouching in fear of God or standing afar off in awe of God, Jesus invites us to have a personal, trusting and intimate relationship with God; how much more intimate can one be with God than by calling on him as Daddy? Jesus knows that how we view God in our mind’s eye, determines the kind of relationship we will have with him. If we see him as a terrible taskmaster we will cower in fear. If we see him as a stern and strict judge we will never abide in peace with him, certain of our salvation. If we see him as an impersonal power of the cosmos we will never be able feel his love for us. But, if we see him as Daddy we will live in child-like trust, walking each day hand-in-hand with him. This is the abundant life that Jesus gives us.

While most people, who do not deny the existence of God, would claim that all are “children of God,” the Bible reveals quite a different truth. Yes, we are all God’s creations and under his authority and Lordship and will all be judged by him, but being a child of God and having the right to truly call him “Abba” as Jesus invites, is something that only born-again Christians are able to do. *“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”* (John 1:12-13).

Jesus was a radical! Will you be radical enough to accept him at his word?

A New Set Of Eyes

I used to think there was a formula or a set “way” to follow, but the inner journey seems to have no one course.

Only that hands must be empty, Heart must be seeking.

Treasured conclusions must be set aside. Beliefs are small in front of Divine brightness.

It doesn't matter what I hold to be true. All that matters is what is.

Such emptiness the Spirit demands

Such childlike trust

Such wanting



From: *A New Set of Eyes, Encountering the Hidden God*, by Paula D'Arcy



You who live in the shelter of the Most High,

who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

² will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress;

my God, in whom I trust.’

³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler

and from the deadly pestilence;

⁴ he will cover you with his pinions,

and under his wings you will find refuge;

his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,

or the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,

or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you

to guard you in all your ways.

¹² On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,

the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver;

I will protect those who know my name.

¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue them and honor them.

Psalm 91



*‘My refuge
and my
fortress;
my God,
in whom I
trust.’*



Evergreen Christian Church

27772 Iris Drive
P.O Box 427
Evergreen, CO 80439
303-674-3413

www.evergreenchristianchurch.com

Rev. G. Duncan Miller, Pastor
duncanmil22@gmail.com

**A Loving,
Witnessing,
& Serving
Community of Faith**

Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) For Spiritual Growth

"Lectio Divina", sometimes called "Sacred Reading" is a special type of reading. The aim of "Sacred Reading" is to allow the printed word to open your heart to the heart of God. When practicing the spiritual discipline of "Sacred Reading" you might want to find a quiet place, become attentive to the presence of God within that place, and ask God to open your heart to God's life giving word.



You are invited to use this "Food for the Evergreen Journey" for such reading. Leave the publication somewhere you can have easy access to it. God might move you to receive it's blessings at different times during the day, week, or month. Perhaps you will want to go back and read its offerings several times. Each time God may reveal something new to you. Perhaps there will be a word or a phrase within this publication which moves you deeply and opens you to the **Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.**

Pay attention to those words and phrases. They are God's word for your life today.

If you would like to contribute to this publication, please write or call Rev. Miller. The only requirement is that all submitted items be up-lifting and convey some quality of the Fruit of the Spirit as found in Galatians 5: 22-23.

Prayer for our Mentors

(from: Fire in the Soul: A Prayer Book for the Later Years, by Richard Morgan)

We give thanks, O Creator God, for people in our experience who have been bridges, helping us from here to there, at times over troubled waters. Thank you for our mentors and helpers, who opened the way from a dead past to a better future. How can we express our gratitude, Lord? By being bridges for others of coming generations. Help us to escape from the narrow prison of self. May we become bridges over which the coming generations will walk to a brighter tomorrow. AMEN

Help us escape from the narrow prison of self...

