



**The Church of St Bartholomew**

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***From Poetry to Prayer: A Lenten Journey***  
***Booklet for the Week of March 22nd, 2020***

*As we journey together in the wilderness, Lent offers us a sacred time and space to explore and to discover who we are and to deepen our relationship with God. Throughout history, artists have helped us connect with the Divine through music, the visual arts, and the written word.*

*Poetry is at the heart of so many of the sacred writings and texts of the major world religions, with its metaphors and rich imagery, inviting us to reflect and to respond.*

*This year, join me in a weekly offering of religious and secular poetry. Let each poem work its way through your heart and your mind, awakening new thoughts and provoking new ideas. Each poem is accompanied by a reflection and questions as well as a brief biographical sketch of the poet. Should you wish to engage in a daily exercise, go through the litany of questions offered by John O'Donohue, "At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions". Choose all or a few questions at the close of day. If you are so inclined, try keeping a journal of your journey and of your reactions and reflections throughout these forty days!*

*The Reverend Canon Laurette Glasgow*

*Daily Reflection*

*At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions*

John O'Donohue\*

~

What dreams did I create last night?

Where did my eyes linger today?

Where was I blind?

Where was I hurt without anyone noticing?

What did I learn today?

What did I read?

What new thoughts visited me?

What differences did I notice in those closest to me?

Whom did I neglect?

Where did I neglect myself?

What did I do today for the poor and the excluded?

Did I remember the dead today?

Where could I have exposed myself to the risk of something different?

Where did I allow myself to receive love?

With whom today did I feel most myself?

What reached me today? How deep did it imprint?

Who saw me today?

What visitations had I from the past and from the future?

What did I avoid today?

From the evidence – why was I given this day?

*\*John O'Donohue (1956-2008), Irish poet and philosopher, Celtic spirituality writer and speaker, wrote this "blessing" in his collection entitled To Bless the Space Between Us, published by Doubleday in 2008, shortly before his sudden death in Avignon, France, at age 52.*

*The Fourth Week: Finding Jesus*

**Take Me To The Alley**

Gregory Porter\*

~

Well, they guild their houses

In preparation for the king

And they line the sidewalks

With every sort of shiny thing

They will be surprised

When they hear him say

Take me to the alley

Take me to the afflicted ones

Take me to the lonely ones that

somehow lost their way

Let them hear me say

I am your friend

Come to my table

Rest here in my garden

You will have a pardon

Jesus always surprises. He surprised them in the Temple and in the Synagogues. He did not live up to the image of a "conquering military hero" of a messiah. When he rode into Jerusalem, he did so on a donkey, not a prize stallion. Where do we find Jesus? Not in the gilded halls. We find him "in the alley" with the afflicted and lonely ones that "somehow" lost their way. It is here that Jesus invites all of what is "broken" within us to gather at his table, in his garden, for his pardon.

*\*Gregory Porter (1971-present) is an American singer and songwriter, whose Mother was a Minister of the faith and a formative influence in his life even after she died when he was only twenty-one years old. His music and lyrics remind me of those of Leonard Cohen...profound and meaningful with a poetic twist. I met him a few years ago on the Queen Mary 2 and found him to be a deeply spiritual person. He composed this song in 2016.*