

Sojourning on the Path of Mercy - into the Light of Christ

Sojourning means to:
visit, stay, stop over, rest, linger, dwell,
or be on retreat.

Opening Prayer:

Sojourning heart; dancing this slow
dance of grace and hope.
Walking, wondering and wandering.
Dear heart, let's journey together.



Image: The Path of Mercy, by David Chen.

* If you could go on a retreat as an act of kindness to yourself, where would you go?

Reading 1: Lk. 1:78-79

"By the tender Mercy of God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Reading 2: From 'Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy' by Mary Sullivan
RSM, pp. 330 and 331.

"Catherine was convinced that the reality of God's constant care is definitely proclaimed in the mercifulness of Jesus, as manifested in his life, death and resurrection. Thus God's providence was for her the hidden but sure presence of God's merciful care in all human movements, even the most painful, and the trustworthy mode of God's intimate, active engagement in the forward journeys of all human lives, including her own.

In Catherine's thinking there was a direct correlation between her awareness of the continuing presence in the world of the 'Cross of Christ' and her resolute confidence in the accompanying providence of God - a correlation which enabled her to be profoundly sensitive both to human suffering and to God's life-giving participation in that suffering."

Reflection time: Take a moment to slowly read each of the above readings again.
Highlight the words or phrases which speak to you.
What is the message for you in these readings?



In her original Rule Catherine wrote:
*Mercy! The principal path marked out by
Jesus Christ for those who desire to follow
Him.*

Image: Clare Augustine Moore's depiction of the Good Samaritan story in *Rule and Constitutions of the Religious Sisters of Mercy*.
Photo, David Knight.

Reading 3: 1 John 7

.."but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

Reading 4: 2 Cor. 4:6

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Reading 5: John 8:12

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' "

Reading 6: Mark 6:31

"He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.' "

Reflection time: Take a moment to slowly reread the scripture verses above.

Highlight the words or phrases which speak to you.

What is the message (s) for you in these verses?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, you are the commencement and culmination of creation. From now until forever you are the light of life. You invite us to walk in your light and become lights to the world as we do so.

Revive our hearts to sing, "*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.*"

