

Urban Wilderness

A Liturgy for the city

*The people speak the words in **bold***

Preparation

O God, grant us peace
in the midst of noise
in spite of the chaos
in the face of fear.

It is in losing life that we find it.
Give us courage to let go
of that with which we protect ourselves,
of that with which we deny the world as it is,
and of that with which we distance ourselves
from others

God of the city,
Let me meet you in the street today,
Overhearing your voice, catching your eye
Glimpses of you in the people I pass,
Your image reflected a thousand times, in a
thousand ways,
God of the city, give me grace to live another
day in the chaos.

You know the exhilaration of the city, and the
frustration too.
Teach me to see you in both equally.
Keep me from selfishness, from cowardice,
from apathy.
Keep me from my tendency to retreat into
myself.
Be my compassion, my patience, my strength.

God of the city,
Let me be as Christ in the street today.
Bring me the confused and misdirected, with their
fractured English and dog-eared maps.
Guide me on the stairs to mothers with pushchairs,
and travellers with too much luggage.
Bring me the homeless, the hungry, the ones who
woke up in the gutter.
Sit me next to the mumblers, the shufflers, the lonely,
the lost and the lame.
Send me the angry and frustrated; If there's an
aggressive drunk on a bus tonight, let it be my bus.

Let me show your peace, your kindness, your
acceptance.

Let me be the first with a seat, with a helping
hand or a calming word.

Lord have Mercy
Christ have Mercy



Church on the Corner
www.churchonthecorner.org.uk

2008

The Word of God

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying.

Romans 12:9-12

The Song of the Holy City

I saw no temple in the city,
for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty
and the Lamb.

**And the city has no need of sun or moon
to shine upon it,
for the glory of God is its light,
and its lamp is the Lamb.**

By its light the nations shall walk,
and the rulers of the earth
shall bring their glory into it.

**Its gates shall never be shut by day,
nor shall there be any night;
they shall bring into it
the glory and honour of the nations.**

I saw the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal,
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

**And either side of the river stood the tree of
life, yielding its fruit each month,
and the leaves of the tree
were for the healing of the nations.**

The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be there,
and his servants shall worship him;
and they shall see his face
and his name shall be on their foreheads.

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the
Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and
might, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Revelation 21.22-26; 22.1, 2b, d, 3b, 4

Words attributed to Teresa of Calcutta

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Disturb us Lord,
**When we retreat into ourselves,
and our world becomes too small,
because we shut others out
afraid that they will take away what little we
have.**

**When we deny our humanity, and theirs
and let go of the hope of community
because in our pursuit of comfort,
we have lost our thirst for life.**

**Having fallen in our love with ourself,
we have ceased to love others.
And in our efforts to build our own world,
we have allowed our vision
of your kingdom to fade.**

Blessing

May you be interrupted, frustrated,
delayed and disrupted.

And in that moment
may the Kingdom of heaven
be revealed in you.

May your eyes be Christ's eyes,
Your hands Christ's hands.

And your words Christ's words
For this is where you have been placed,
here in this beautiful brokenness, this urban
wilderness.

May you die to yourself
and serve the people of this city.

To the Glory of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Amen.