

Sunday Prayer January 17, 2016

Ever-present God we worship you.
For your constant companionship we praise you.
We praise you that there is no God-forsaken place.
We praise you that there is no God-forsaken person.
You are with us – each of us – all of us.
If we move to the left or right – you are there.
If we fall in disgrace or despair – you are there.
If we rise with joy and jubilation – you are there.
If we make the journey into the depths of our inner most parts – the murkiest of parts – even there we find you – and we find you patient in love and persistent in grace.
Truly there is no place where you are not and such knowledge is too wonderful for us to fully comprehend.

Though you are ever present and ever mindful of us, we are not so mindful of you. This we confess. Too often we are so wrapped up in our own lives that you are only an afterthought – after we bump into some tragedy or other and the wheels comes off; when our health fails or our relationships disintegrate; when our money ends before the month does or when the clouds of life threaten to swallow us without warning.

If we honest Lord, much of the chaos in our lives is due to our forgetfulness of you and your ways. When we are so wrapped up within ourselves our ego trips us up time and time again. When we forget you our priorities narrow and it is not long before...

petty jealousies
silly insecurities
selfish ambitions
and groundless fears
fill our thoughts
twist our conversations
and direct our deeds.

And it is not long before we have tied ourselves in untie-able knots.

And for this reason we come here week after week Lord to be reminded of a different way to live life – a way of life exemplified to us by Jesus – a way of doing life that liberates us from our ego driven agenda. A way of life that rests in the certainty that we are accepted completely by you so we don't have to waste time trying to perform and impress the people around us – as if our well-being rested in what others think of us.

By your Holy Spirit awaken us to the Jesus way of doing life today – that our lives may also bring life as his did. That our lives may also bring hope and healing as his did. That our lives offer welcome and nourishment as his did.

By your spirit help us to believe that our living can in fact imitate the living ways of Jesus. Untie the knots we have tied ourselves in and set us free from the patterns of behaviour that prevent us from following Jesus. Re-pattern our lives to remember you constantly. From the first thing we do in the morning to the last thing we do at night let us be grounded in the knowledge of your presence.

Amen.