

Prayers

God of great majesty and mystery, with humility we offer you our praise.

Your glory is too great for words.
Your light is too bright to be capture.
Your mercy is too generous to measure.
Your truth is too sharp to absorb.

And yet God we gather this morning attempting to do all these things: We gather to speak of your glory – hold onto your light – dive into the depths of your mercy and be liberated by your truth. In other words, Lord – we gather to do the impossible, but we gather nevertheless because we trust that that which is impossible for us is possible for you. By your spirit, please reveal yourself to us today – humbling us by your glory, guiding us by your light, forgiving us in your mercy and refining us with your truth. For these are our deepest needs, Lord.

Lord too seldom are our lives lost in wonder, love and praise. Too often we get sucked into a lifeless routine – void of any sense of the Sacred. Our lives shrink – orbiting little more than our self-interests and perhaps our immediate family. We forget that as your children, our family extends to include all of humanity – a glorious wonder of diversity. We forget that as part of your creation we are intricately connected with all of life – a glorious wondrous web of life. Move us “from seeing to beholding” life’s glorious wonder.

Lord, we need your light although we are afraid of what it will reveal. We long to be truly known but at the same time we fear the exposure it involves. We fear we will be seen to be someone other than we pretend to be or believe ourselves to be. We confess that darkness is strangely comforting – even addictive. The psalmist tells us that the darkness is as light to you. So come and enlighten our darkness we pray. Give us healing insight into our shadowy selves and by your light guide us into a deeper acceptance of who we are.

Lord, we desire your mercy but even as we desire it we are bent on limiting it. We can’t seem to get our heads around the fact that your mercy is free for all. There are days when we feel that we ourselves have exhausted your mercy – believing we need to somehow fix ourselves first before you will smile on us again. And there are even more days when we think others have outrun your mercy, especially when they have certainly outrun ours. Love us Lord into truly trusting that you love us. And move us to be merciful to others as you are merciful to us.

Lord, we need your truth because we are bound by so many falsehoods. Falsehoods Lord that we do not even know to be false. We are brought up shaped by family values that are sometimes more determined by prejudice than justice – but how do we know it to be so when the most significant people in our lives tell us that it is the right way. We have been brought up in a culture that values some things and not others. Again, these are often at odds with what you value, yet again not easy to recognise because they have been clothed in religious garments. We are brought up in a particular socio-economic system that is very difficult to challenge after we have become dependent on it, and especially after it is working well for us. We are complicit in our own entrapment. Have mercy on us Lord – for we can honestly say that we do not know what we are doing. Untangle us from the falsehoods that bind us and with your truth set us free.

Open our hearts to your majesty and mystery today we pray. Give us a glimpse of your glory, a slither of your light, an emersion in your mercy and a pruning by your truth. Amen.