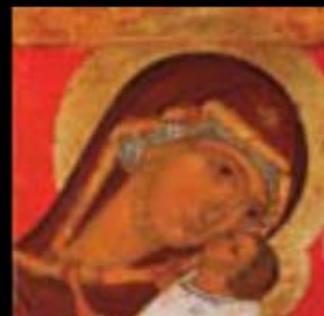
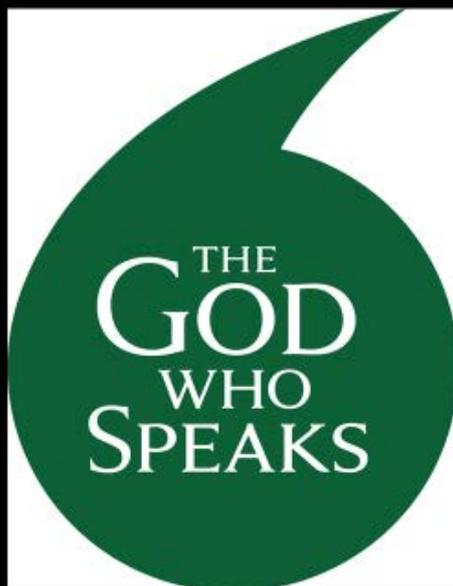


A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE
CLIFTON DIOCESE



How does God speak to you through these reflections?

Reflections

“Our Father in heaven, may your name be held holy, may your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

Matthew 6:9

- According to Jesus what is God’s Kingdom like?
- How do you in your life bring about God’s Kingdom?
- How do you know you are doing God’s will not your own?

“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Ask and it shall be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened’.

Matthew 7: 7-8

- What are you searching for?
- Do you feel prayer doesn’t work? (Be honest)?
- Can you tell your wants from needs?
- Do you really want to deepen your relationship with God?

“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You have learned how it was said. You must love your neighbours and hate your enemies. But I say this to you; Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you’”

Matthew 5: 43 – 45

- Can you do this? Do you pray now for those who cause you problems?
- Do you believe you are the cause of anyone else’s problems?

‘Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!’

Isaiah 49:15

- What image of God does this provoke?
- How do you think of God? Where does that view come from?
- What does the passage say to you of God?

You created my innermost self, knit me together in my mothers womb..... you know me through and through”

Psalm 139:14

- How do you feel about this?
- Are there parts of us we wouldn’t want God to know about or do we find it amazing that God knows us completely and still loves us?
- What does this say about the way we should behave to others?

“Jesus was led by the spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and nights after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, ‘if you are the son of God, turn these stones into bread.’ But he replied ‘Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’”.

Matthew 4: 1-4

- You can only be tempted by something you want. What are your temptations?

“As he was walking by the Lake of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast into the lake for they were fishermen. And he said to them ‘Come after me and I will make you fishers of people. And at once they left their nets and followed him’”.

Matthew 4: 18 - 20

- What was it about Jesus that made them follow him?
- If you were there in the story, what character would you be?
- Would you respond in the same way – what stops you following Jesus?

***“I know the plans I have for you, it is the Lord who speaks, plans for peace not disaster”.
Reserving a future for you full of hope. When you call to me and come and pray to me, I will listen. When you seek me you will find me”.***

Jer. 29: 11 - 14

- Can you see God at work in all the events of your life?
- Do you trust God?
- How do you come close to God?

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him”

Luke 15:21

- What parable is this from?
Did you say prodigal son or forgiving father – does the way you named it say something about your beliefs?
- The Father reached out to the son when he was a long way off – do you believe God is reaching, looking for you?

“The people complained against Moses, ‘why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it so we should die of thirst?’

Exodus 7: 3

- What securities in our lives would we, like the Israelites leaving Egypt, be unwilling to leave behind?
- What stops us being free?

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them “peace be with you”.

John 20 v19 – 21

- What locks you in- stops you feeling free or changing?
Anxiety, Guilt, overwork?
- How can you find peace?

You are the salt for the earth but if salt loses its taste, what can make it salty again? You are the light of the world..... you must shine in people’s sight, so that seeing your good works they may give praise to your father in heaven.!

MT5: v 13 – 16

- Are you light for others? When you are around are they more hopeful?
- Are salt that has lost its taste? If so what caused that?
- How you again be light for others?

Here are few other passages from scripture reflect on how they apply to you

“Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?” As often as seven times? Jesus answered, ‘not seven but seventy seven times!’

MT 18: 21

“In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God”

John 1: 1

“Whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again, but no one who drinks the water that I shall give him will ever be thirsty again”

John 4: 14

“I give you a new commandment, love one another; you must love one another just I have loved you. It is by your love for one another that everyone will recognise you as my disciples”.

John 13:35