

Lectionary
Readings for every day
You Select!



in the HCUC

No. 11

For 18 July 2010

Dear Friends

I finished reading the magazine article and sat silently for a very long moment. It was as if something or someone had breathed a fresh new energy into me. I felt inspired, and that means something like “I feel breathed into.” In case you didn’t stumble over the article in the recent LISTENER (10-16 July), it features a remarkable human being Dr Swee Tan, brilliant plastic surgeon, internationally acclaimed scientific researcher, local resident of Lower Hutt, and above all a warm, determined, compassionate man. The article quotes the comments of a few people who know him and his work. One says he is ‘a cross between a genius and a saint’. Te Papa has made him a Living Treasure. Another likens Prof Tan to a ‘gospel preacher’ when he is in front of an audience. ‘He makes it sound spiritual—and good fun at the same time.’ These are clear, unselfconscious and positive references to spirit. No wonder I felt inspired—my inner being breathed upon, energised and enlivened.

Listen to Swee Tan’s attitude as expressed at the end of the article: “I have the privilege to see the human spirit , the courage people have and the tenacity to get through all this. Some people have surgery, radiotherapy and even chemotherapy. But they come through the other side. And I think a lot are better people—much better people. They appreciate the compassion people have for them. They realise what the human being can do for themselves. And they also realise the unique opportunity everyone has being alive. I don’t have any science to prove, but I think people are more drawn to earth, more human.”

Prof Tan’s words remind us that to be human is to know and experience the spirit dimension. It is to keep the inner and outer aspects of our being in balance. To put round the other way, to be more human does not mean to be less divine. To be drawn to earth, and to be down to earth, is to honour the earth as the out-pouring of spirit in all its creative power, diversity, beauty and mystery. The source and sustaining energy of all people, and all things visible, is always Spirit.

Sincerely - Lester

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 19 July:	50:3-7,14	Micah 6:1-4,6-8	Matt 12:38-42
Tuesday 20 July:	85:1-7	Micah 7:14,15,18-20	Matt 12:46-end
Wednesday 21 July:	70	Jer 1:1,4-10	Matt 13:1-9
Thursday 22 July:	36:5-10	Jer 2:1-3,7-8,12-13	Matt 13:10-17
Friday 23 July:	23	Jer 3:14-17	Matt 13:18-23
Saturday 24 July:	84:1-6	Jer 7:1-11	Matt 13:24-30
Sunday 25 July <u>Pentecost 9</u>			
Ps 85; Hosea 1:2-10; Col 2:6-15(16-19); Luke 11:1-13			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 26 July:	82	Jer 13:1-11	Matt 13:31-35
Tuesday 27 July:	79:8-end	Jer 14:17-end	Matt 13:36-43
Wednesday 28 July:	59:1-4,18-end	Jer 15:10,16-end	Matt 13:44-46
Thursday 29 July:	146:1-5	Jer 18:1-6	Matt 13:47-53
Friday 30 July:	69:4-10	Jer 26:1-9	Matt 13:54-end
Saturday 31 July:	69:14-20	Jer 26:11-16,24	Matt 14:1-12
Sunday 1 August <u>Pentecost 10</u>			
Ps 107:1-9,43; Hos 11:1-11; Col 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 2 August:	119:89-96	Jer 28	Matt 14:13-21
Tuesday 3 August:	102:16-21	Jer 30:1-2,12-15, 18-22	Matt 14:22-36
Wednesday 4 August:	121	Jer 31:1-7	Matt 15:21-28
Thursday 5 August:	51:11-18	Jer 31:31-34	Matt 16:13-23
Friday 6 August:	137:1-6	Deut 32:35,36,39,41	Matt 16:24-28
Saturday 7 August:	9:7-11	Habk 1:12-2:4	Matt 17:14-20
Sunday 8 August <u>Pentecost 11</u>			
Ps 50:1-8,22-23; Isa 1:1,10-20; Heb 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40			

THE SEASON OF THE SPIRIT

On the Church calendar it is the season for 14 Sundays, ie from May 23rd to August 29th. In reality every week, every day, every breath we take, is a celebration of spirit.

Here is James K Baxter's poem— **"Song to the Holy Spirit"**.

Lord Holy Spirit
You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks
Inside and outside the fences
You blow where you wish to blow.

Lord Holy Spirit,
You are the sun who shines on the little plant
You warm him gently, you give him life,
You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves.

Lord Holy Spirit,
You are the mother eagle with her young,
Holding them in peace under your feathers,
On the highest mountain you have built your nest,
Above the valley, above the storms of the world,
Where no hunter ever comes.

Lord Holy Spirit,
You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,
In whom we know already that the battle has been won.
You bring us to our Brother Jesus to rest our heads upon his shoulder.

Lord Holy Spirit,
You are the kind fire that does not cease to burn,
Consuming us with flames of love and peace,
Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Lord Holy Spirit,
In the love of friends you are building a new house,
Heaven is with us when you are with us.
You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor.
Guide us, wound us, heal us, Bring us to the Father.

- Take time to ponder each verse. Note the key words.
- Notice the image used in each verse. What image is in tune with your life at this moment?

Celebrate:

- The unfettered wind
- The warm sun
- The protecting mother eagle
- The bright cloud
- The kind fire
- The love of friends.

BREATHING THE HOLY SPIRIT — DANCING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The theologian, mystic and lecturer/teacher has composed a litany of the Spirit in order to teach the mystery
EXPERIENTIALLY —
which is how the Spirit teaches, he says.

The metaphors are drawn from John's gospel and Paul's letters (mainly). He suggests we calmly breathe in and out with each image. Here is just a taste from his list of more than 60.

Pure Gift of God
Indwelling presence
Reminder of the mystery
Homing device
Knower of all things
Already, always Awareness
Compassionate observer
Inner breath
Divine DNA
Implanted hope
Seething desire
Fire of life and love
Warmer of hearts
God's secret plan
Wind of change
Filled emptiness
Flowing stream
Descended dove
Cloud of unknowing
Through-seer

In her "Poem for Pentecost" Nancy McCreedy describes the Holy Spirit as a boogaloo dancer who tries to set our feet a-tapping and our bodies a-trembling.

We are ambivalent. Afraid to let go, but once we are caught up we hope it will never end.

Here are sections of the poem:

*"Start with my toes
you old Ghost.
Spirit the soles of my shoes
and teach me a Pentecostal
Boogaloo ...*

*Oh look at me spinning,
sprinkling, tonguing, teaching.
Winsome, wondrous steps that
lift me, how ! ...*

*Stop — I'll drop.
I'll dying, I'll flying ...
Stop chasing fool -
I'm racing from you
Don't catch me. Do!
I'll drown.
Oh! Drown me most
For I love you so
You old Ghost!"*