

Day 1

Saturday April 1

Today's theme ... Come

The first prayer opportunity is to come. This indicates the decision to pray to God, the arrival at the point of prayer, and coming to rest in the presence of God to pray.

Today's scripture verses

John 6: 45 *"It is written in the prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from Him comes to me."*

Matthew 11:28 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

Mark 6:31 *"Then because so many people were coming and going that they did not have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest'."*

A reflection by Bruce Johnson ... The God Who Comes

One of the earliest stories in the bible tells of God looking for Adam and Eve in the garden. They are afraid and have hidden themselves, but God calls out to them. "Where are you?" Each year during the pre-Christmas Season of Advent we recall that God is the God who comes. It reminds us that God has always been the God who comes to his people, longing to have an intimate relationship with us. God has come to us most perfectly in the person of Jesus who shows us what God is truly like. And the message we receive through all that Jesus did and taught was that God is love and he longs to participate in all of our lives with us. We don't need to be afraid of the God who comes.

When we come to God in prayer, it is because he has already come to us. We come humbly to be present with God whose love has drawn us. There is no magic to this "coming". We don't have to try and hide from God as Adam and Eve did. We don't have to get ourselves prepared to pray; we don't have to wait until we are in the right frame of mind; we don't have to even have the right words.

Jesus told the story of the father in that famous story we call "the prodigal son". It is really a story about God who looks out for our coming, arms open wide. God embraces us and waits expectantly to hear what we have to say.

It doesn't matter whether what we want to share with God is our rejoicing, our gratitude, our concerns, our fears our longings or even our anger. God graciously listens to all we have to say, and respectfully waits until we have poured out our hearts.

Too often however when we have finished unloading all we have to say, we leap up and move on with our lives. If God has come to us as the Bible indicates, surely he has something to share with us. Maybe we should take some time to sit a while and listen to God's response to our all that is on our hearts.

Video reflection

Follow the link to watch Bruce further reflecting on this theme.

<https://youtu.be/hXpweTbG3pA>

Want to delve further?

Check out the "Resources" section on the website below and read p. 6-8 of the Week of Prayer 2023 series.