**Monday of Holy Week**

**Adoration**

**Opening Prayer**

God, your constant love reaches to the heavens

**YOUR FAITHFULNESS EXTENDS TO THE SKIES**

Your righteousness is towering like the mountains

**YOUR JUSTICE IS LIKE THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA**

How precious is your constant love

**WE FIND PROTECTION UNDER THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS**

You are the source of all life

**AND BECAUSE OF YOUR LIGHT, WE SEE THE LIGHT.**

(Psalm 36:5-9, Iona Worship)

**Bible Reading: John 12:1-11**

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2**Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.**3**Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

**4**But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,**5**“Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” **6**He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

**7**“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. **8**You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

**9**Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.**10**So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, **11**for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

**Reflection** *from Fiona*

We may have heard this beautiful account many times before, but let’s take a fresh look into it as we think about the word ‘adoration’ in our Holy Week devotions…

This encounter of Jesus being anointed by Mary shows her total adoration in honour of Jesus and the truth of who He was and is. Jesus was travelling via Bethany – a place He would go to after ministry – a place of welcome, hospitality and rest. It is here, we see Him being ministered to….

Mary did what no one would have dared to do…. take the most expensive perfume and poured it over Jesus’ feet of all things, not his head, and wiped with her hair – unbound hair - and the fragrance filled the whole house. It was an act of “moving devotion” (B. Milne). Nard is an expensive perfume, like oil, which comes from the root of the nard plant – grown in India, and not what would have been more readily available locally. It would have amounted to a whole annual salary of an average or above-average wage earner.

Imagine the reaction…shock and horror, and utter disbelief by some, but others moved to tears, at the generous, life-giving, love-affirming act. As Bruce Milne says, “Mary is clearly moved by deepest feelings of loyalty in being willing to brave the inevitable social disapproval”.

Jesus affirms Mary in her intention in v7 – which shows us how this was a divine act in preparing Jesus’ body for burial. What she did was a beautiful thing. The cross must be central part to the disciple’s life.

So Mary’s adoration reveals deep devotion, love, respect, honour, purpose…

Adoration is one of the most beautiful ways to spend time in prayer….so let us sit and dwell today, be still, reflect and adore, with total focus and no distraction.

**Time of Prayer** *Spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer,*

*led by*

*the Holy Spirit*

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*All* **Our Father in heaven,**

 **hallowed be your name;**

 **your kingdom come;**

 **your will be done;**

 **on earth as in heaven.**

 **Give us today our daily bread.**

 **Forgive us our sins,**

 **as we forgive those who sin against us.**

 **Lead us not into temptation;**

 **but deliver us from evil.**

 **For the kingdom, the power**

 **and the glory are yours**

 **now and for ever. Amen.**

**Song May the Fragrance** **of Jesus fill this place**

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7JdhbQ33r0>

**Closing Prayer**

Your presence is thick for those who can ***see***.

You are here

You are Lord

You are mighty,

God says,

‘Wait for me

Wait on me

Wait with me.

Behold my glory and with me radiate my resurrection power,

Take hold of your salvation,

And make known to those still searching.’

**Amen**.