

Sonnet-Prayer

Sonnet-Prayer by Malcolm Guite for the first year of the Diocesan Vision: Transformed by Christ: **Prayerful**

The sonnet-prayer below is based upon the following passage from Matthew's gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples, "Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way:

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."
Matthew 6.5-13*

Sonnet-Prayer

'Pray to your Father in the secret place
And from his mystery, he'll answer you.
Be still in the simplicity of grace,
A single word suffices, if it's true.'
O Lord you call me deeper into prayer
And bid me welcome to an inner room,
To close the outer door, be centred there,
And bid my wandering thoughts to keep at home.

You call me out of all hypocrisy,
Call me away from empty language games,
Oh help me hear that call, the mystery
That's masked for now by trivia and memes.
Open that door for me, Lord, make that space,
And then transform me in the secret place.

Malcolm Guite
November 2021