

## Thought for the day – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Revd John Marshall**

David's Crown -- Malcolm Guite

I have just finished reading David's Crown, Malcolm Guite is a priest, poet and writer among other things.

He has written a poem for each of the Psalms.

He explains his method.

"The poems are woven into a corona, crown or coronet of poems, where the last line of one becomes the first line of the next, and the last line of the final poem returns to the opening line of the first, thus completing the crown and in the poets own words, 'forming a chaplet of praise to garland the head of the one who wore the Corona Spinea, the crown of thorns for us'".

I would like to share one poem and part of its matching psalm.

Psalm 132: CXXXII Memento Domine

The perfect love that casts out every fear;  
Came down with the Christ, the true anointed one  
Whose coming David saw when Yahweh swore

One of his line, Messiah, David's son  
Would sit upon his throne and wear his crown.  
But David died before the deed was done,

Nor did he ever know the promised crown  
Would be a crown of thorns, the 'resting place'  
Would be the sepulchre. God would come down

And earth would meet with heaven face to face  
And when Christ 'satisfied the poor with bread'  
That bread would be his body. In our place

He would face death and suffer in our stead  
To set us right. And now the crown of thorns  
Is bright with blossom round his sacred head.

Psalm 132 11-15

The Lord swore an oath to David,  
a sure oath that he will not revoke  
'One of your own descendants  
I will place on your throne –  
if your sons keep my covenant  
and the statutes I teach them,  
then their sons shall sit  
on your throne for ever and ever.'

For the Lord has chosen Zion,  
He has desired it for his dwelling.  
This is my resting place  
for ever and ever.  
here I will sit enthroned,  
for I have desired it;

I will bless her with abundant provisions,  
her poor will I satisfy with food.'

- David's Crown Sounding the Psalms Malcolm Guite Canterbury Press

During Holy Week we may focus on Jesus last days in Jerusalem.

I was very struck by Malcolm Guite's poem.