

Thought for the day – Good Friday 2nd April 2021

By Rev John Marshall

David's Crown Sounding the Psalms 2

I would like to share two of Malcom Guite's poems based on two of the best known Psalms 22 and 23.

Psalm 22: XXII Deus, Deus meus

Before he shares with us the golden crown,
He comes to share with us the crown of thorns.
Our hurts and hates close in and hem him round

Mock and humiliate him. All the scorns
With which we blaspheme God in one another
Are concentrated here among 'the horns

Of unicorns', the lions' mouths, the slather
Of our devouring wickedness. He takes
It all and turns it into love. He gathers

All of us and by atonement makes
Our peace with God. He speaks to us of mercy
Even as we pierce him. No-one slakes

His thirst. I tremble at the mystery
For Christ himself is crying through this psalm
To suffer my own dereliction for me.

Psalm 23: XXIII Dominus regit me

To suffer my own dereliction for me,
To be my shepherd, and to lead me through
The grave and gate of death, in strength and mercy

Christ has come down. At last I've found the true
Shepherd and the false just fade away
Before him. I will sing of how he drew

Me from the snares I set myself, how day
Dawned on my darkness, how he brought me forth
Converted me and opened up the way

For me, and led me gently on that path,
Led me beside still waters, promised me
That he'd be with me all my days on earth.

And when my last day comes, accompany
And comfort me, as evening shadows fall,
And draw me into his eternity.

David's Crown Sounding the Psalms Malcolm Guite
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Let us thank God for poets and writers and those who wrote the scriptures.