

Praying the Way 2 – Maggie Marshall

During Lockdown John and I started using a book by Revd Terry Hinks called 'Praying the Way'.

'Through raw and authentic prayers, Terry Hinks leads us into the heart of the gospels to see more clearly the needs and joys of today's world. This highly original book helps us to pray out of, and with, the words of Jesus and to discover the joy of prayer as a two – way conversation – listening as much as speaking to God.'

The book consists of 40 prayers to go with readings in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We are currently on number 22 in Luke and have yet to read the 40 in John, which should bring us nicely to the start of Advent.

I have chosen 5 prayers which go with readings:

Praying with Mark: Green Grass

As he went ashore he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd

Mark 6: 34

For times of rest and places that refresh
and the one to whom we can open our hearts:

we thank you, life-giving God.

For the green grass, growing so abundantly
When the rains come and the parched land dreams its fill:

we thank you, life-giving God.

For the crowds of people, women and men, young and old,
awkward and beautiful, battered and anxious,
each with their gifts and needs:

we thank you, life-giving God.

For the one who looks at all with compassion,
whose words bring life and whose hands break bread:

we thank you, life-giving God.

For the gift of bread offered and blessed,
torn apart and shared among many
to nourish and sustain, bringing strength and joy:

we thank you, life-giving God.

For nothing wasted, crumbs gathered in a basket
and none left hungry

we thank you, life-giving God.

For signs of your overflowing kingdom,
glimpses of your abundant will,
the taste of your all-embracing banquet:

we thank you, life-giving God.

So by your Spirit help us to rest and be fed,
To look at all with compassion
and leave none lost or hungry,
for the sake of our shepherd,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading: Mark 6:30 – 44