

Thought for the day – Wednesday 12th July 2023

By Revd John Marshall

Parable and Paradox I Am the Vine Malcolm Guite

John 15.5 I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.

How might it feel to be part of the vine?
Not just to see the vineyard from afar
Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,
But to be grafted in, to feel the stir
Of inward sap that rises from our root,
Himself deep-planted in the ground of love,
To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,
As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give
A little to the swelling of the grape,
In gradual perfection, round and full,
To bear within oneself the joy and hope
Of God's good vintage, till its ripe and whole
What might it mean to hide and to abide
In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?

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Maggie and I liked visiting a vineyard and winery in the Ahr Valley off the Rhine in Germany. So good we went at least twice.