

# Prayer and Dinner – Christ the King

## Sunday November 22 2009

### Opening Prayer

#### A Prayer of Relinquishment

Today, O Lord, I yield myself to you.  
May your will be my delight today.  
May your way have perfect sway in me.  
May your love be the pattern of my living.

I surrender to you  
my hopes  
my dreams  
my ambitions.  
Do with them what you will, when you will, as you will.

I place into your loving care  
my family  
my friends  
my future.  
Care for them with a care I can never give.

I release into your hands  
my need to control,  
my craving for status,  
my fear of obscurity.  
Eradicate the evil, purify the good, and establish your  
kingdom on earth.

For Jesus sake,  
Amen.

### Video

Jesus before Pilate and the Jewish authorities.

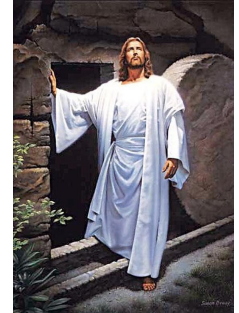
### Reflection by Albert Einstein

“A human being is part of a whole, called by us the Universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”

### Lectio Divina on the Gospel Reading

#### Gospel John 18:33b-37

Pilate said to Jesus,  
"Are you the King of the Jews?"  
Jesus answered, "Do you say this on  
your own  
or have others told you about me?"  
Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am  
I?  
Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me.  
What have you done?"  
Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world.  
If my kingdom did belong to this world,  
my attendants would be fighting  
to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.  
But as it is, my kingdom is not here."  
So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"  
Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.  
For this I was born and for this I came into the world,  
to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."



### Our Deepest Fear

Song - Arms Wide Open

*In our own time, you are encouraged to read the following  
extract from a speech made by Nelson Mandela before  
lighting a candle.*

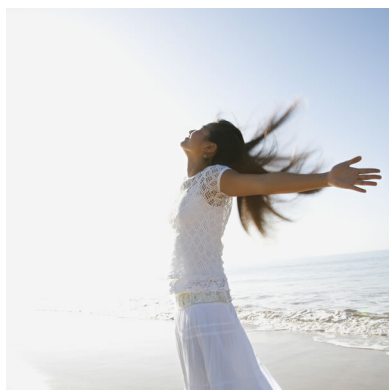
“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.  
We ask ourselves, Who am I to be  
brilliant,  
gorgeous, talented, fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?  
You are a child of God.  
Your playing small does not serve the  
world.  
There is nothing enlightened about  
shrinking  
so that other people won't feel  
insecure around you.  
We are all meant to shine, as children do.  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is  
within us.  
It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.  
And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously  
give other people permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others”.



## Contradictions as Treasures

By Fr John O'Donohue

One encouraging aspect of the negative is its truthfulness. The negative does not lie. It will tell you clearly where you court absence rather than habit presence. On entering your solitude one of the first presences to announce itself is the negative. Nietzsche said that one of the best day in his life was the day that he rebaptized all his negative qualities. In this kind of baptism, rather than banishing what is at first glimpse unwelcome, you bring it home to unity in your life. This is the slow and difficult work of self retrieval. Every person has certain qualities or presences in their heart which are awkward, disturbing and negative. One of your sacred duties is to exercise kindness towards them. In a sense you are called to be a loving parent to your delinquent qualities. Your kindness will slowly poultice their negativity, alleviate their fear and help them to see that your soul is a home where there is no judgement or febrile hunger for a fixed and limited identity. The negative threatens us powerfully precisely because it is an invitation to an art of compassion and self-enlargement which our small thinking utterly resists. Your vision is your home and your home should have many mansions to shelter your wild divinity. Such integration respects the multiplicity of selves within. It does not force them into a factitious unity, it allows them to cohere as one, each bringing its unique different to complement the harmony. This rhythm of self-retrieval invites your generosity and sense of risk, not merely internally, but also externally, at the interpersonal level. This is probably the uneasy territory of which Jesus spoke when he exhorted: "love your enemies".



## A Faith Story

"When it is dark enough you can see the stars. I shall never forget the first time I took a night flight in one of those powerful jets. As the might plane lifted up to the heavens, I looked out of my window and saw great spurts of flame pouring out from the sides of the plane. I became a little concerned. The stewardess, noticing this, came over to explain to me that those flames emanated from jet planes at all times when they took off in the day time. the point was, you couldn't see them unless it was dark enough. Now, I want you to know that the fears which had come to me at the sight of those flames didn't indicate that I have no faith in God in the air. It's just that I have more experience with him on the ground".

## Song and Photo Reflection

- You are the Lord

## Sharing

Shared any thoughts and reflections

## Common Prayers

You are invited to share any prayers with those gathered. They can include anything.

## Final Prayers

(Repeat these prayers 7 times)

### Our Father

Who Art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kingdom Come  
Thy will be done  
On Earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day  
Our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those  
Who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

### Hail Mary

Hail Mary  
Full of Grace  
The Lord is with you  
Blessed Art Thou among women  
And Blessed, is the fruit of your womb Jesus  
Holy Mary Mother of God  
Pray for our sinners now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

### Glory Be

Glory Be to the Father  
And to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit.  
As it Was in the beginning.  
Is now and ever shall be  
World without End  
Amen.

