

Week One: The Appearance of Christ at Our Side

Weekly Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Weekly Question:

When I become aware of Jesus Christ walking beside me in this life, when does that happen? What am I doing? How can I take those moments, and encourage myself to see Christ coming alongside me in my daily walk more often?

Daily Challenge

- Set aside 10 minutes of your day to sit quietly, allowing your mind, body and soul to relax while inviting Christ to come alongside you as you make your way through the coming day. Read the Daily Scripture and take at least 5 minutes with each day's question
- Create a personal prayer list, placing on it the names of people for whom your prayers have been requested, or for those whom God is inviting you to pray for as the weeks unfold
- Pray one of the Daily Devotions for Individuals Families, using this set of lessons for your readings. Use your personal prayer list, and pray for each person on it, intending Christ to come alongside them

Daily Scriptures:

- Sunday's Scripture
 - John 12: 44-50
 - Your question: "Do I need to see in order to believe?"
- Monday's Scripture
 - I Corinthians 1: 1-19
 - Your question: "How am I, with and in my community, experiencing division, right now?"
- Tuesday's Scripture
 - Genesis 37: 12-24
 - Your question: "When I have stood by, when I should have stood up?"
- Wednesday's Scripture
 - I Corinthians 2: 1-13
 - Your question: "Am I willing to rest on the power of God in my life?"
- Thursday's Scripture
 - Psalm 46
 - Your question: "Am I willing to allow God to be my refuge?"

- Friday's Scripture
 - Mark 2: 13-22
 - Your question: "What booth does Jesus call you from, in order to follow Him?"
- Saturday's Scripture
 - I Corinthians 4: 1-7
 - Your question: "How are you 'puffed up' in this life?"

The Weekly Gathering:

Collect for I Lent:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel:

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

- Open your gathering with the appropriate Daily Office for the hour of the day
- Hold silent prayer for 3-5 minutes
- One person reads the Collect for the Week, and then all pause to reflect on the prayer (2-3 minutes)
- Another person reads the lesson for the evening
- After a short period of quiet meditation (3-5 minutes), all recite the Lord's Prayer and then discuss:
 - Just how important is your Baptism to you in your daily life?
 - What does the word "Beloved" mean to you and to your group? Are you "beloved?" Do you know someone who is "beloved?"
 - What does being "beloved" mean to you?
 - Re-read the Gospel passage and ask this question of the group: "What is the difference between finding pleasure in someone or something, as opposed to being happy with, and in, them?"
- Close your time together with the next Daily Office liturgy

