

THURSDAY, April 2

James L. Breck

Psalm 132:3-5. I will not come under the roof of my house nor climb up into my bed; I will not allow my eyes to sleep, nor let my eyelids slumber; until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.

Ps 131, 132, [133] * 140, 142 | Exodus 7:25—8:19 | 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 | Mark 10:17-31

This search for your dwelling place has kept my heart wide open, even as my eyes struggle against my need for sleep. It has rained for days—the only sound is the river pulling at tree roots, covering animal and boot tracks along the bank. The punctuation marks of birds fly against the clouds, and I imagine them searching for clauses the wind rearranged and blew away. I wonder about those jumbled words and why the river's current sounds like sand being brushed off the sky.

Then I understand. "Yes. Here, Lord," I say aloud toward the place where one ray of sunshine has found its way through an opening in my cloudy heart. I hear a whisper, Dwell here, within me. And see what happens next.

PRAY for the Diocese of Karnataka South (South India)

MOVING FORWARD: What do you think God's dwelling place looks like? Make a collage or share a word picture with a friend.

THURSDAY, April 9

Maundy Thursday

John 13:1. Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Ps 116:1,10-17 | Exodus 12:1-4,(5-10), 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35

I can imagine a conversation between Peter and Jesus that never happened but feels real to me. In my head, it takes place just after the Last Supper.

What are you still doing here, Jesus? You've given us enough. You've given us everything. Save yourself now. You know Judas has betrayed you. If you do not escape, you will be arrested and killed. Let me love you—let all of us love you—by helping get out of Jerusalem. The Romans are coming.

Peter, it's not just you and our friends or the Jews I have come to save. It was always going to take everything we had to do this. I'm not afraid, and you shouldn't be either. God is love and love conquers hate. All things are being made new,

even in times and places beyond your reckoning.

I'll see you on Sunday.

PRAY for your own diocese

MOVING FORWARD: Write your own conversation between Jesus and a disciple.

THURSDAY, April 16 Thursday in Easter Week

Luke 24:36-38. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Ps 8 or 114 or 118:19-24 | Acts 3:11-26 | Luke 24:36b-48

Deep in the longest drought on record, one man stood among them, believing in rain. The skeptics said that it was only a ghost or someone's imagination or—if he was genuinely resurrected, it didn't really matter because it was simply his own precipitation and nothing more.

And all of them wanted proof as they began looking for umbrellas and raincoats, maybe boots to keep their feet dry. Raindrops landed everywhere, and the dry ground began to drink. The people began to sate their own thirsty prayer that the desert they'd felt inside them since his crucifixion would become a well of living water instead. And that is exactly what happened.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kimberly & Kuruman (Southern Africa)

MOVING FORWARD: Do some research on the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. What does it mean to you to pray for fellow Anglicans around the world?

THURSDAY APRIL 23

Toyohiko Kagawa

John 15:16-17. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Ps 18:1-20 * 18:21-50 | Exodus 16:10-22 | 1 Peter 2:11-25 | John 15:12-27

In a dream, I opened my eyes for the first time and was surrounded by wondrous colors. Nothing was afraid of the colors. Nothing was broken by the colors. I saw children

running happily through fields, singing joyously with their parents, who seemed like children again. They all picked flowers that did not fade.

I heard them speaking as if their voices were the whole sky. They sang songs that made the elephants dance. Nothing growled. Everything grew and grew. People loved each other truly and deeply.

In the next dream, I saw footprints in the snow. I followed them, feeling like I was praying. And I found you, Lord, waiting for me. Waiting for us all. Then you told me to wake up and start painting the world with the colors you had given me—all the colors of love.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kiteto (Tanzania)

MOVING FORWARD: If you were making a color wheel, what colors would love be? Happiness? Peace?

THURSDAY April 30

Matthew 4:11. Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Ps 37:1-18 * 37:19-42 | Exodus 20:1-21 | Colossians 1:24—2:7 | Matthew 4:1-11

I found Jesus, weary from weeks of fasting, being tempted by the devil. Turn the stones into bread, throw yourself off the temple, fall down and worship me.

No, Jesus answered, I will not.
You know what's going to happen, the devil said.
I do, Jesus replied.
You'd really go through it again? To save one single person? Even the ones with the hammers and the nails? Even the one who betrayed you?

Yes, Jesus answered, for all of them, for any one of them, even if there were only one.
What a futile gesture. They're going to crucify all of the light they refuse to see. I would give you all of the kingdoms of the world, the devil said.

There is no futility in truly loving someone, Jesus answered. I watched the devil shake his head and leave. Then the angels came, Jesus found me, touched the Judas place inside me, and I finally understood. The flowers of Golgotha are you and me, and Jesus is the gardener.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kondoa (Tanzania)

MOVING FORWARD: Do you have a Judas place in your heart? How does Jesus come and meet you in that place