In the Morning Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Julian of Norwich, Mystic and Theologian, c. 1417 - MAY 8th

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all. Amen.

Dwelling in the Word: Hebrews 10:19-24

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds

As you hear the passage being read, what word or phrase is God calling you to notice? As you hear the passage read a second time, what might God be calling you to try on at this time?

Following your silent meditation after the second reading, please type your word or phrase into the Chat if you would like to share it. The officiant will invite all of us into a quiet time for a few minutes to prayerfully read and reflect on the words offered in the Chat.

The officiant will end this time of silent prayer with The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer
(Spanish - The Very Rev. Lina Howell, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, French - The Rev. Jack Gilpin, Retired Priest of ECCT)

Zoom Call
At end of zoom call

Closing Prayer

“Lord, let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for thee or thine,
But quiet homes of prayer and praise, where thou mayest find fit company,
Where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away,
And wide, sweet spaces kept for thee; where holy thoughts pass up and down
And fervent longings watch and wait thy coming.”
— Julian of Norwich

Blessing

Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018- Julian of Norwich- MAY 8th

Of Julian’s early life we know little, only the probable date of her birth (1342). Her own writings in her Revelations of Divine Love are concerned only with her visions, or “showings,” that she experienced when she was thirty years old rather than with the details of her biography.

Julian had been gravely ill and was given last rites; suddenly, on the seventh day, all pain left her, and she had fifteen visions of Christ’s Passion. These brought her great peace and joy. “From that time I desired oftentimes to learn what was our Lord’s meaning,” she wrote, “and fifteen years after I was answered in ghostly understanding: ‘Wouldst thou learn the Lord’s meaning in this thing? Learn it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it thee? Love. What showed he thee? Love. Wherefore showed it he? For Love. Hold thee therein and thou shalt learn and know more in the same. ‘Thus it was I learned that Love was our Lord’s meaning.”

Julian had long desired three gifts from God: “the mind of his passion, bodily sickness in youth, and three wounds—of contrition, of compassion, of will-full longing toward God.” Her illness brought her the first two wounds, which then passed from her mind. The third, “will-full longing” (divinely inspired longing), never left her.

She became a recluse, an anchoress, at Norwich soon after her recovery from illness, living in a small dwelling attached to parish church. Even in her lifetime, she was famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor and was frequently visited by clergymen and lay persons, including the mystic Margery Kempe. Kempe says of Julian: “This anchoress was expert in knowledge of our Lord and could give good counsel. I spent much time with her talking of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Julian understood that God was both Father and Mother to us, and understood Christ as exemplifying this maternal face of God. “Thus Jesus Christ, that doeth good against evil, is our very Mother. We have our being in him, where the ground of motherhood beginneth...As verily as God is our Father, so verily is God our Mother.”

Julian’s book is a tender and beautiful exposition of God’s eternal and all-embracing love, showing how his charity toward the human race is exhibited in the Passion. Again and again she referred to Christ as “our courteous Lord.” Many have found strength in the words that the Lord had given her: “I can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and thou canst see for thyself that all manner of things shall be well.”