



Resources & Reflections Week of August 23rd

PRAYERS FOR UNDERGIRDING

Creator God, we give you thanks for mercy which reaches out, for patience which waits our returning, and for your love which is ever ready to welcome sinners. We praise you that in Jesus Christ you come to us with forgiveness, and that by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent and receive your love. Help us to reach with confidence for your mercy given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Give me, O my Lord, that purity of conscience
which can receive your inspirations.
My ears are dull so that I cannot hear your voice.
My eyes are dim so that I cannot see
the signs of your presence.
You alone can quicken my hearing and purge my sight,
and cleanse and renew my heart.
Teach me to sit at your feet and to hear your word.
Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)

Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises.
Where we have been weak, grant us your strength.
Where we have been confused, grant us your guidance.
Where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort.
Where we have been dead, grant us your life.
Apart from you, O Lord, we are weak vessels,
in and with you, we can do all things. Amen.
Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

It helps, now and then, to step back & take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the
magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we
do is complete, which is a way of saying the Kingdom
always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing they hold a promise of the future.
We lay foundations
that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces
far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything;
there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between
the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders.
We are ministers of a future that is not our own.

Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, 1979

A WEEK OF SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday - 11th Sunday after Pentecost August 23rd

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 124
An Epistle Reading: Romans 12:1-8
The Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Monday - August 24

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 57
The Gospel Reading: Mark 13:14-27

Tuesday - August 25

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 54
The Gospel Reading: Mark 13:28-37

Wednesday - August 26

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 65
The Gospel Reading: Mark 14:1-11

Thursday - August 27

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 147
The Gospel Reading: Mark 14:12-26

Friday - August 28

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 88
The Gospel Reading: Mark 14:27-42

Saturday - August 29

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 122
The Gospel Reading: Mark 14:43-52

Sunday - 12th Sunday after Pentecost August 30th

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45
An Epistle Reading: Romans 12:9-21
The Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28



*If the mail is slow,
We provide you with a
Sunday start on the new week.*

THE GOD who is Good

I've heard a thousand stories of what
they think you are like,
But in the dead of the night what I hear
is the tender whispers of love
in the dead of night,
And you tell me that you're pleased,
And that I'm never alone.
You're a Good Good Father.
It's who you are, it's who you are,
And I'm loved by you.
It's who I am, it's who I am.
I've seen many searching for answers far and wide,
But I know we're all searching
For answers only you provide,
'Cause you know just what we need
Before we say a word.
It is love that is so undeniable
that I can hardly speak.
Peace so unexplainable
that I can hardly think.
As you call me deeper still,
Into love, love, love.

Taken from Anthony Brown (b. 1981)
and Pat Barrett

