Journey with Jesus

Praying through the Gospel of John

Week 16

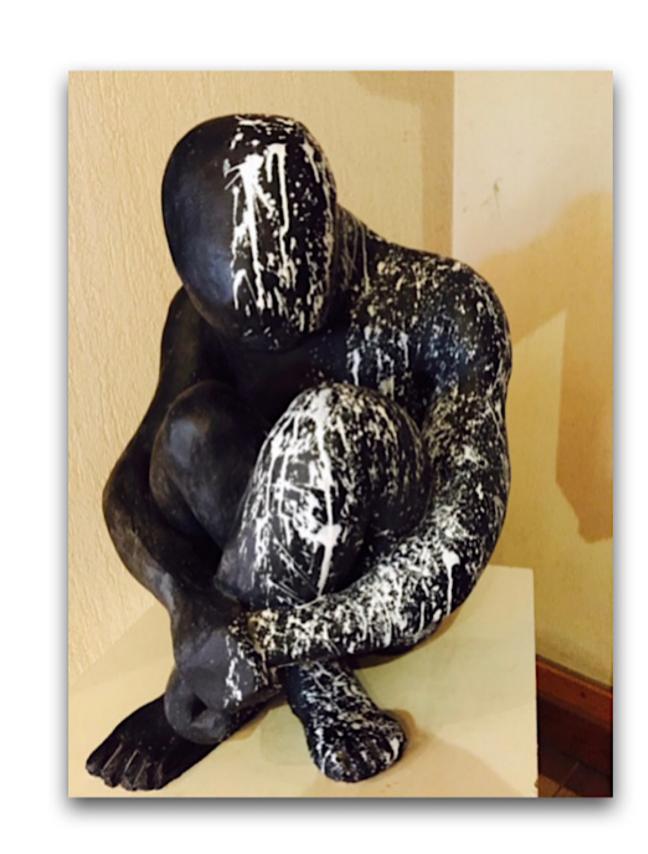


Grapes on the vine by Sarah Bird Used with permission. © https://www.sarahannbird.com

- Find a place to sit quietly.
- Sit in a relaxed position and close your eyes.
- Breathe in and out slowly and become aware of the presence of God.
- 'Remain in me, as I also remain in you.'
- Spend some time praying with these words.
- What does it mean for you to remain in Jesus?
- What does it mean for Jesus to remain in you?
- You might like to listen to Phoenix Chorale sing Ola Djeilo's <u>Pleni Sunt Caeli.</u>



- > You might like to listen to:
 - Day 1: A New Commandment sung by Eric Henry then click here.
 - Day 2: I give you all the honour then click here.
 - Day 3: At your name sung by Phil Wickham then click here.
 - Day 4: If ye love me sung by Tenebrae then click here.
 - Day 5: Peace I leave unto you sung by Pembroke College Choir then click here.
 - Day 6: Across the Lands sung by Keith and Kristyn Getty then click here.
 - Day 7: Abide with me sung by Andrew Marcus then click here.



Day 1: <u>John 13:27b-35</u>

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- Read this passage from John 13.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- > Read these words again slowly.
 - > Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- > What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- > How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
- > You might like to note these down in your journal.
- > When you have finished click here to continue.



Day 2: <u>John 13:36 - John 14:4</u>

Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!" Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in Goda; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

- > Read this passage from John 13 and 14.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- > Read these words again slowly.
 - > Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- > How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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Day 3: <u>John 14:5-12</u>

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

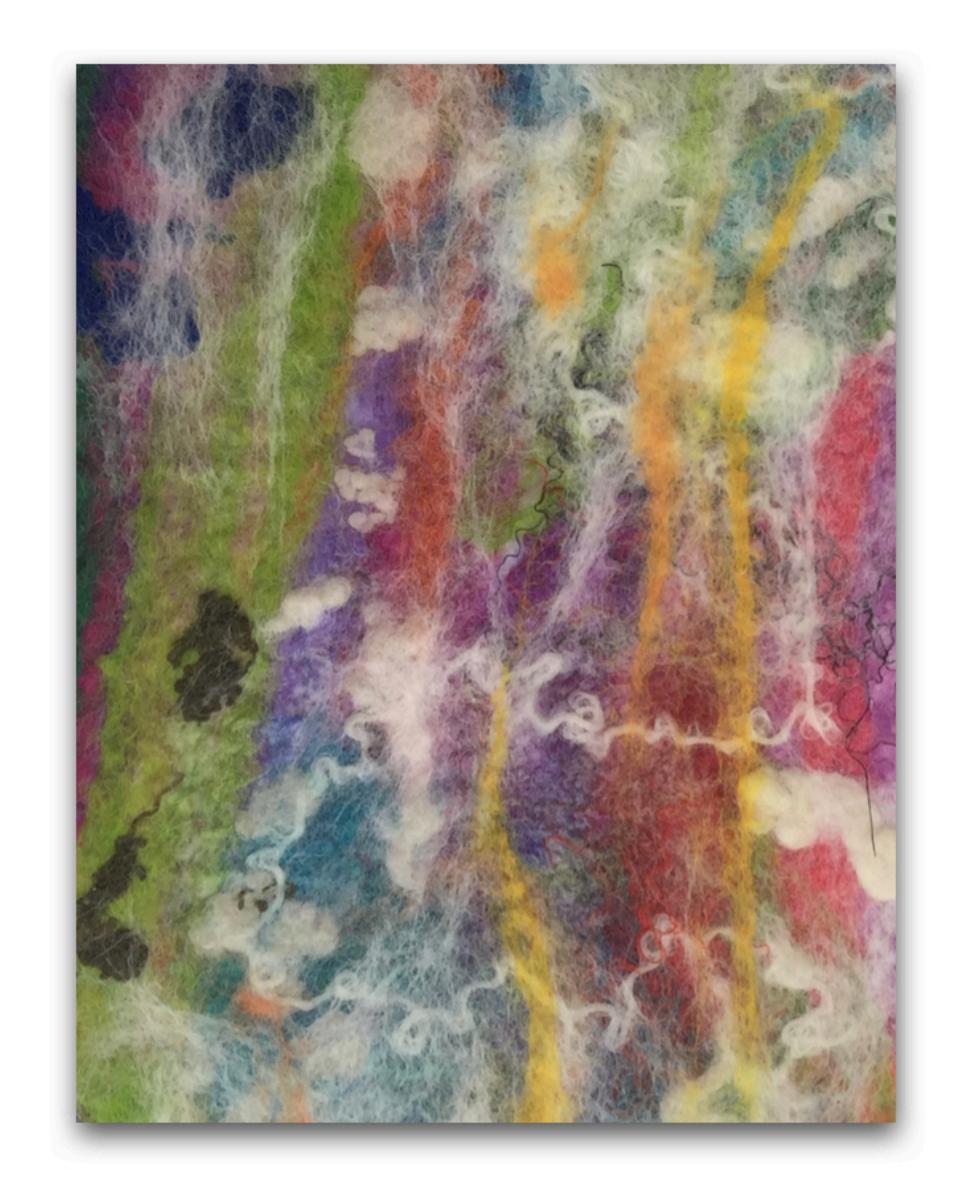
- Read this passage from John 14.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- > Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- > What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- > How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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Day 4: <u>John 14:15-20</u>

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

- Read this passage from John 14.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- > Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- > What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
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Day 5: <u>John 14:22-25</u>

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

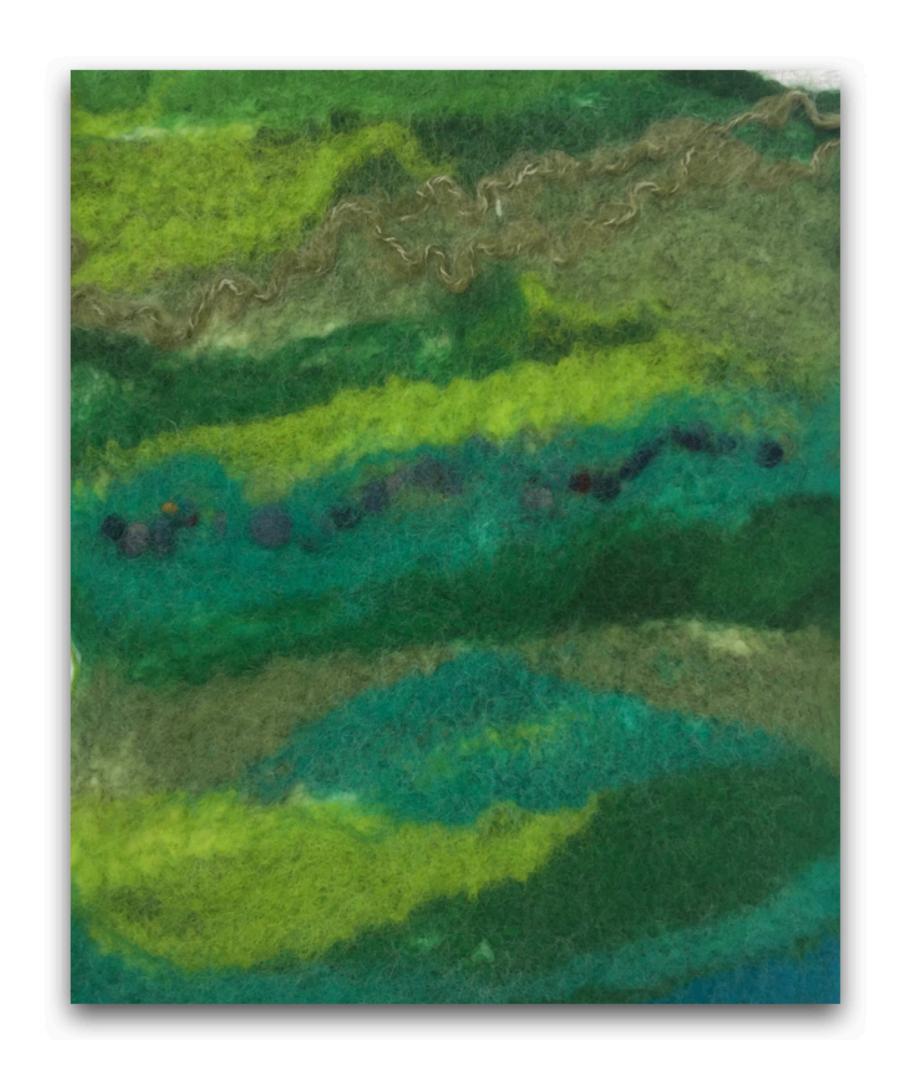


- > Read this passage from John 14.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- > Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- > What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
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Day 6: <u>John 14:28-31</u>

"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave."

- > Read this passage from John 14.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - > Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- > What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- > How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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Day 7: <u>John 15:1-8</u>

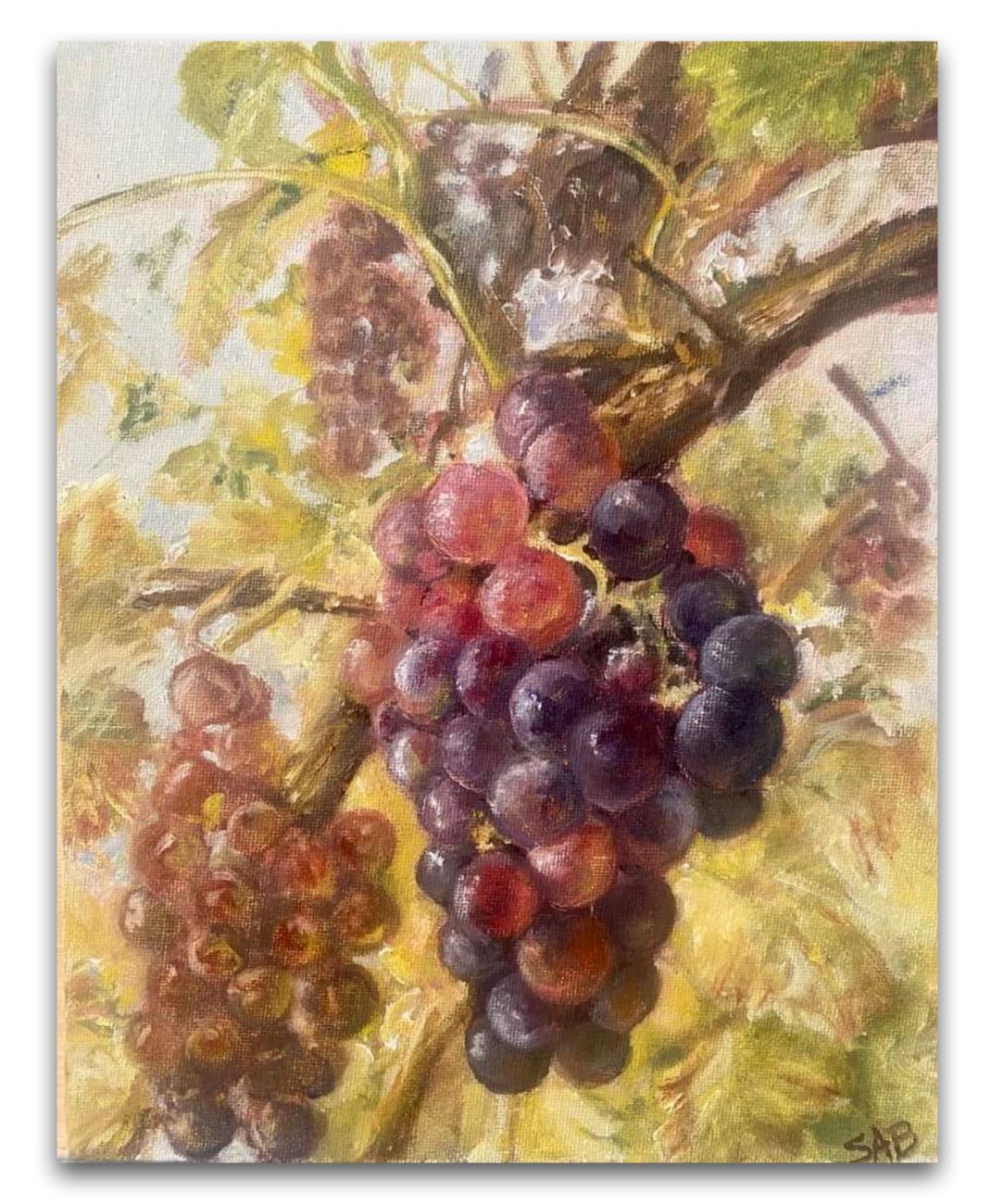
"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

- Read this passage from John 15.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- > What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
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Over the week you might like to listen to The Tallis Scholars sing Spem in Alium

- Day 1: Spem in Alium
- Day 2: In tribulatione dimittis
- Day 3: Respice
- Day 4: Respice (repeat)
- Day 5: Sancte Deus 1
- Day 6: Sancte Deus 2
- Day 7: Sancte Deus 3



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Praying with Felt

- A number of images from this week's prayer station are made from felt.
- > Wet felting is described here https://youtu.be/kYPNY3a5H7s
- To felt using the guidance here you need bubble wrap, a towel and merino wool.
- > You can get the wool from places like https://www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk

Felting uses the most beautiful wool.

Felting can be hard work.

Felting produces unique works of art.

As you felt, you might like to ponder again what it means to truly love one another. As you do, you might like to listen to this piece of music which uses the felting image to the right made by Karen Herrick.



I am the vine

How might it feel to be part of the vine? Not just to see the vineyard from afar Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine, But to be grafted in, to feel the stir Of inward sap that rises from our root, Himself deep planted in the ground of Love, To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot, As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give A little to the swelling of the grape, In gradual perfection, round and full, To bear within oneself the joy and hope Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole. What might it mean to bide and to abide In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?

Malcolm Guite - used with the poet's permission

Click on the title of this sonnet to listen to the author read these words.



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