# Journey with Jesus

Praying through the Gospel of John

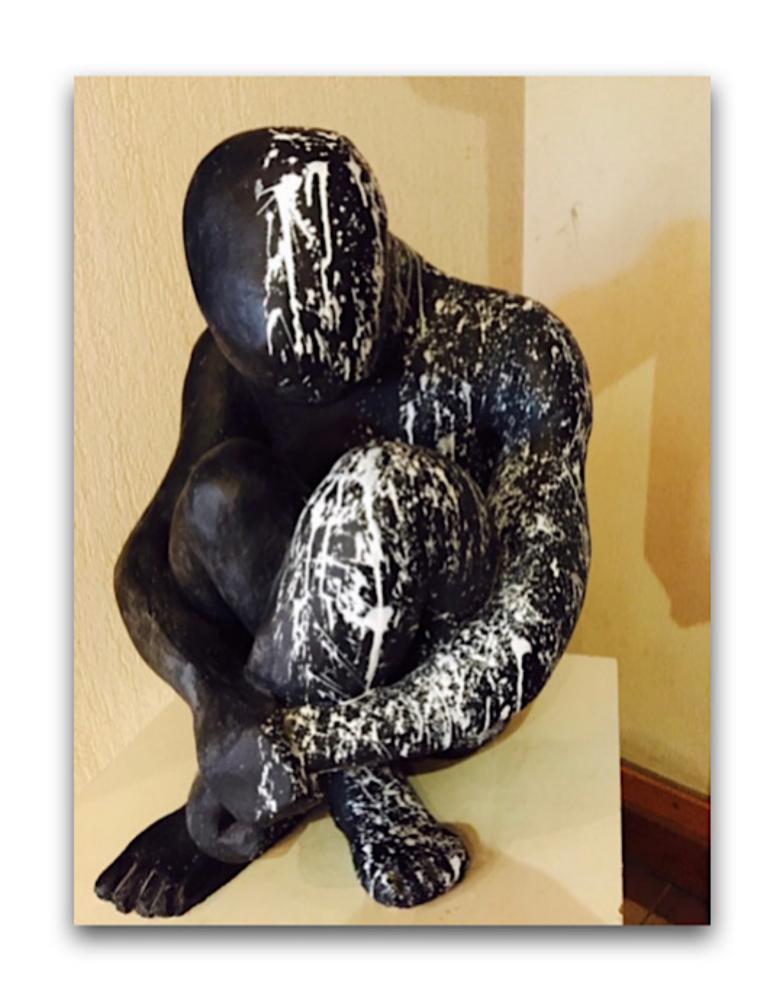
Week 2



- Find a place to sit quietly.
- Sit in a relaxed position.
- Close your eyes.
- Breathe normally being aware that God holds you in every breath you take.
- Be aware of God's loving eyes watching over you.
- As you breathe in pray the word *Come* and as you breath out pray the words *Lord Jesus*.
- You might like to listen to Living Stones Quartet sing In Christ Alone.
- You might like to listen to Voces 8 sing This is my song.
- You might like to listen to Botessini's <u>Grand Duo</u> Concertante for Double Bass, Violin and Piano.



- > You might like to listen to:
  - Day 1: God will provide a lamb sung by Michael Card then click here.
  - Day 2: Come and See sung by Matt Redman then click here.
  - Day 3: Son of the Living God sung by PeeYuu then click here.
  - Day 4: Water you turned into wine sung by Micah Stampley then click here.
  - Day 5: Emu Music sing Jonah's Prayer then click here.
  - Day 6: The Wind blows where it will played by Cindy Stephenson then click here.
  - Day 7: You're Still God sung by Philippa Hanna then click here.



### Day 1: <u>John 1:29-34</u>

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

- > Read this passage from John 1.
  - > 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: John 1:35-42

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

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### Day 3: <u>John 1:43-51</u>

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

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  - 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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- > When you have finished click here to continue.





- > Read this passage from John 2.
  - > 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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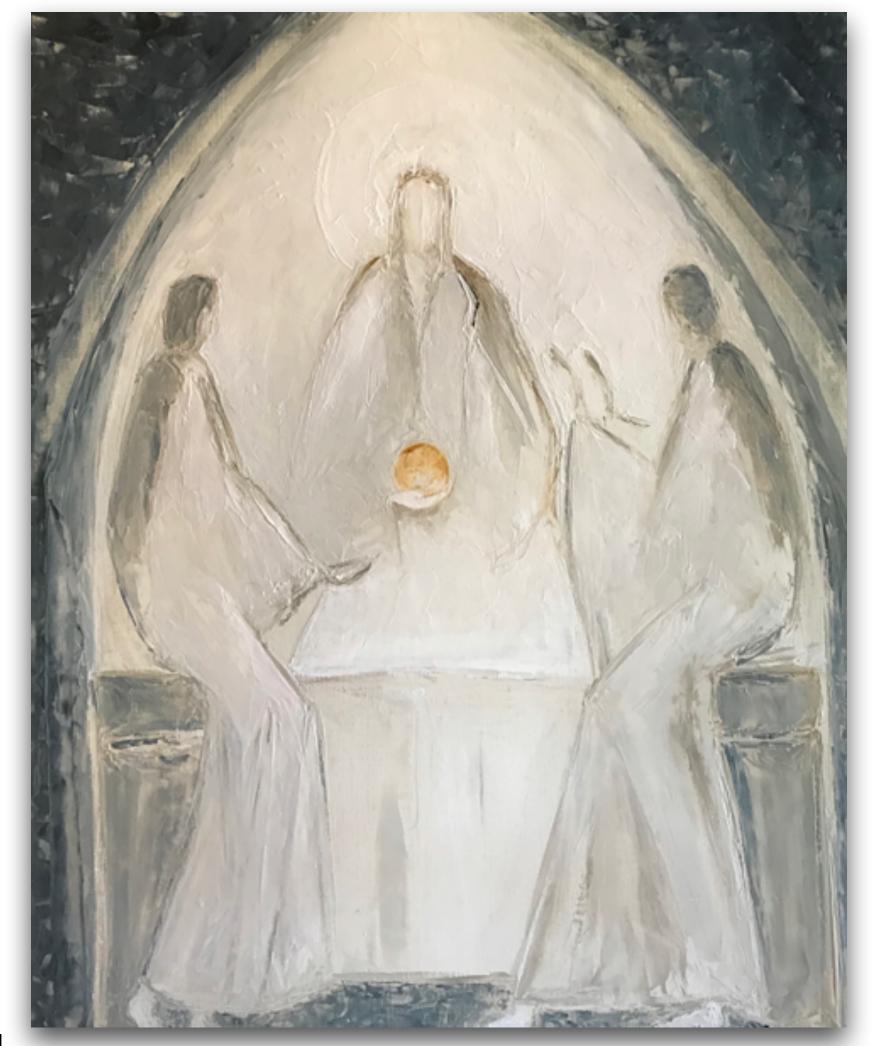
## Day 4: <u>John 2:1-12</u>

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

## Day 5: <u>John 2:13-25</u>

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

- > Read this passage from John 2.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
- > Read these words again slowly.
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### Day 6: <u>John 3:1-5</u>

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."



- > Read this passage from John 3.
  - What words or phrases strike you?
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### Day 7: <u>John 3:9-15</u>

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

- Read this passage from John 3.
  - 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.
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- > You might like to listen to Sara Groves sing
  - Day 1: O Come O Come Emmanuel
  - Day 2: Come thou Long Expected Jesus
  - Day 3: For the Beauty of the earth
  - Day 4: Fairest Lord Jesus
  - Day 5: Abide with me
  - Day 6: What a friend
  - Day 7: He's always been faithful



Horizon au nuage blanc et bleu Macha Chmakoff (fair use) .

Choose one of the images from this week's prayer station and place it in front of you.

#### Look out:

Spend 5 minutes - what do you notice about the picture?

- > Colours and Shapes
- > Movement and Lines
- Objects and Patterns
- Tones and Mood
- > People and Living things

#### Look in:

Ponder your interior response to the picture

- The feelings evoked
- The thoughts evoked
- The associations that come to mine
- The links with your life now
- The links with your past life
- The links with your hopes for the future

#### Look out:

- > What Bible passages resonate with or challenge your reflections so far?
- > What glimpses of God do you notice?
- > Where do you see aspects of the mission of God in this?
- > What aspects of vocation and ministry does this image open up?

How might you crystallise something important God has revealed to you through your time with this image?

### Creative prayer



I am the good shepherd.

Textile art by Jane Allan. Used with permission.

### I am the Good Shepherd

When so much shepherding has gone so wrong, So many pastors hopelessly astray, The weak so often preyed on by the strong, So many bruised and broken on the way, The very name of shepherd seems besmeared, The fold and flock themselves are torn in half, The lambs we left to face all we have feared Are caught between the wasters and the wolf.

Good Shepherd now your flock has need of you,
One finds the fold and ninety-nine are lost
Out in the darkness and the icy dew,
And no one knows how long this night will last.
Restore us; call us back to you by name,
And by your life laid down, redeem our shame.

Malcolm Guite - used with the poet's permission.

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



I am the good shepherd.

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#### Week 2

