

BE STILL

Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Risen Lord today.

Listen or Sing:

Regina Caeli

via: <https://www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/Summit#music>

Regína caeli, laetáre, allelúia: qui-a quem me-ru-í-sti portáre, allelúia, Resurréxit, sicut dixit, allelúia. Ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

(English)

O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia: For he whom you have humbly borne for us, alleluia, Has arisen, as he promised, alleluia, Offer now our prayer to God, alleluia.

Gathering Prayer:

Christ yesterday and today
The beginning and the end
Alpha and Omega
all time belongs to him
and all the ages
to him be glory and power
through every age forever, Amen.
Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (15: 9-17)

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.’

The gospel of the Lord.

Ponder:

Re-read the gospel.

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God’s word in prayer asking that it ‘enlighten and renew’ us.

The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change by this text?
- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me? Why does it attract me?

Reflect:

What does it mean to ‘remain’ or ‘abide’ in God’s love? Depending on the biblical text the term remain or abide appears over 40 times in the Gospel of John. From the classical Greek ‘*menó*’ (or verb *menein*) meaning to remain; stay; abide; stand fast; live; dwell; last; endure; stay where you are – all these are derived from the Greek verb *menó* or its forms. In other words, ‘remain’ or ‘abide’ can mean:

- to dwell at ones’ own house, to stay as a guest in someone’s home, to abide or to sustain unbroken fellowship with someone.
- to have a friend who abides is to always be present to help you in time of need.

We know from our gospel texts that God “abides” (*meno*) in Christ. God dwells in Jesus and therefore has a constant influence upon him. God’s presence is in Jesus. Perhaps this week we can think about what it means to dwell in God in our daily lives: How do we:

- Remain united with Jesus
- Remain in unbroken fellowship with Jesus
- Remain in union with Jesus

How do we respond to the invitation to:

- be in relationship with Jesus?
- have Jesus and God at the heart of all we do?

RESPOND

Pray:

God, as we journey in this Easter Season, bless us with wisdom and hope. Encourage us to keep our eyes fixed on you as we continue in our efforts to live as pilgrim people. Amen.