

# Lenten reflections – 3

## Prayer in Strange Times



### Sunday

Jesus our brother,  
who followed the necessary path  
and was broken on our behalf.  
May we neither cling to our pain  
where it is futile,  
nor refuse to embrace the cost  
when it is required of us:  
that in losing ourselves for your sake  
we may be brought to new life. Amen

*Janet Morley, All Desires Known*

### Monday

God,  
You know that the only way  
we'll turn to you  
is when we have exhausted  
all of our resources  
And even then,  
we'll have a go at you  
railing at injustice  
questioning your omnipotence



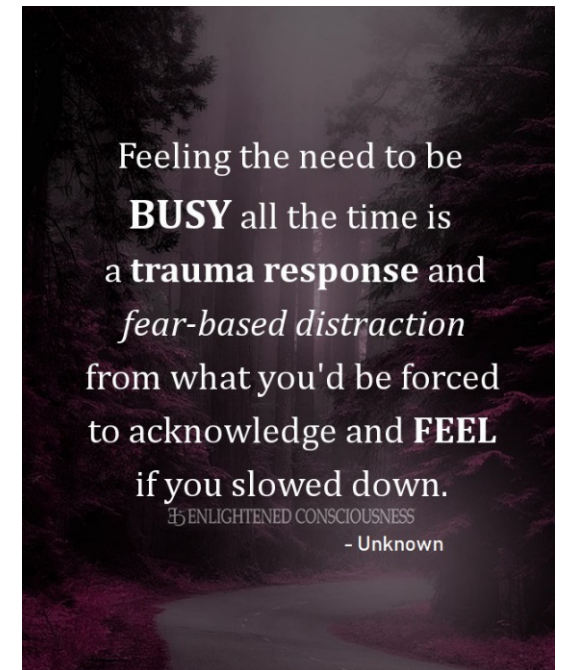
And still you wait  
to gather us up  
and soothe us  
You sit with us  
as we grieve our loss of control  
You support us  
as we seek to centre ourselves  
You strengthen us  
as we discover new ways  
to be disciples  
who listen  
to your beloved Son  
God may we be fast learners  
so that we can lead others  
into your light and love this day.

*Liz Crumlish*

### Tuesday

'Ideas hang on me like outsize clothes into which I still have to grow. My mind lags behind my intuition ... [which] means that my mind ... must sometimes work overtime in order to seize the various premonitions by their coat-tails. A host of concrete ideas keep clamouring for concrete formulation. I must stop and listen to myself, sound my own depths, eat well and sleep properly if I am to keep my balance ... but alas, the emphasis these days is on speed, not on rest.' Lord teach me to be still.

*Etty Hillesum*



Feeling the need to be  
**BUSY** all the time is  
a **trauma response** and  
*fear-based distraction*  
from what you'd be forced  
to acknowledge and **FEEL**  
if you slowed down.

ENLIGHTENED CONSCIOUSNESS

- Unknown

### Wednesday

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when  
all is unfamiliar,  
that I may speak of your goodness  
to a troubled world.

*Lincoln Cathedral*

## Thursday

Loving God  
As I enter the gift of a new day  
On the edge  
Out of my comfort zone



You are before me  
Help me to be  
Open  
Honest  
Real  
To you  
With you  
For you.  
Help me to be  
Open  
Honest  
Real  
To others  
With others  
For others.  
Help me to be  
Open  
Honest  
Real  
To me  
With me  
For me.  
In my desire to do so  
I may glimpse you today.

*Ewan Kelly*

## Friday

Today, like every other day,  
we wake up empty  
and frightened.  
Don't open the door to the study  
and begin reading.



Take down the dulcimer.  
let the beauty we love  
be what we do.  
There are hundreds of ways  
to kneel and kiss the ground.

*Rumi, 13th Century*

## Saturday

This I know:  
The steadfast love of the Lord  
endures for ever  
For those laughing  
and for those weeping  
The steadfast love of the Lord  
endures for ever  
For those who are paralysed by fear  
And for those whose creativity is stirred  
The steadfast love of the Lord  
endures for ever

For those who have been this way before  
And for those who are charting new territory  
The steadfast love of the Lord  
endures for ever



For those who crouch by the empty tomb  
And for those who have already found  
the folded grave clothes  
The steadfast love of the Lord  
endures for ever  
May we hold one another  
reverently  
in that steadfast love

*Liz Crumlish*

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