

**Companions of Brother Lawrence
Devotions for August 3rd 2020**

Words from Brother Lawrence

It is not needful always to be in church to be with God. We can make a chapel of our heart, to which we can, from time to time withdraw to have gentle, humble, loving communion with him.

Words of invitation

Dear Companions, let us make a chapel of our hearts, a sacred place where we can meet with God.

Worship God singing -

Hymn - Be still for the presence of the Lord

or

Hymn - We have come into this place and gathered in your name to worship you

Now take a moment to rest in the presence of the Lord .

Be still.

Listen.

See what God is saying to you in the words that follow.

Inspired by The Creator's Meditation by Grace Krag

Dear child let us sit together.

Rest awhile in my presence.

Let my love enfold you.

Be still.

Listen.

Know the one who created you.

Look to the mountains and know my strength

Look to the sky, it's moods constantly changing.

You will find me in the radiance of dawn, the glory of sunset and the awesome mystery of the night sky with it's spiral galaxies and worlds yet unknown.

Look at the fields and know my provision as season after season the harvest of hedgerow and field is gathered in.

Know me in the variety of plant and flower, animal and bird.

Notice how I the Creator delight in My creation, and delight in you dear child.

Know me as your Father, nurturing, protecting, guiding you.
With you from the beginning, the one who saw you being
formed in your mother's womb.

Know me as Jesus, your Saviour, the one who calls you and
says even today "Come, follow me."

I am the one who walks with you, weeps with you.
Who stretches out a hand to you. Who is with you always.

Know me as the Spirit, the one who warms your heart within
you, who inspires and empowers you, who knows the
longings of your soul.

I am the one who will comfort you, the one who brings balm to
heal you. The one who will fill you again and again with my
transforming love.

Dear child, listen and trust.

Open your heart that we might come in and dwell in you and
you in us.

Let us hold your heart within our own.

Dear child simply receive.

(Margery Tate. July 27.7.20)

*Stay in the quiet place you are now in with God, come to him
just as you are.*

Turn to - *Hymn 364 R& S - Just as I am*

Find the verse or verses that touch your heart.

Time of reflection

Think of the last time you came to God and offered yourself in
His service.

Come now and renew your commitment to Him.

Prayer of Commitment (Re worship blog)
(based on Genesis 22:1-14, the sacrifice of Isaac)

Loving and Sustaining God,
You call us to obedience,
to follow you in all things;
to give up the things we cling to,
and to give ourselves wholeheartedly to your purposes.

We confess that we don't always find this easy to do.
We confess that it is often very difficult to let go of the things
we love.
But we also know that you never ask more of us than what is
possible, and that you stand ready, at all times, to sustain us,
and to provide everything we need.

Give us courage to faithfully follow your leading, even when we cannot see the outcome, even when the path you call us to seems impossible to comprehend.

Help us to trust you in all things, to let go of everything that would stand in the way of whole-hearted obedience to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

Light a candle (optional)

Time of prayer

Say the Companions' Prayer and bring before God all the Companions. Hold them in prayer and give thanks for all those who have inspired and encouraged you in your faith and for those who nurture and support you now.

Hold in prayer and give thanks for all who have been fellow companions on your journey of faith in the past and those who accompany you now.

Hold in prayer and bring before God all those who are struggling during this time of lockdown, unable to meet for worship and fellowship.

Hold in prayer and bring before God our Ministers and all who have reached out to us to strengthen and sustain our faith.

Hold in prayer and offer to God for His blessing and guidance all our members and the way forward for our Churches and CBL thanking Him for his constant love and faithfulness.

Hymn – Make me a channel of your peace



Now let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

in the name of Christ.

Amen