



A Reflection for The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Readings - James 1.17-27 & John 15.1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

The Christian faith informs us that life itself is a gift, given and sustained by God. The passage from the Gospel of John speaks of connection as we are invited to consider how we are connected in and through Christ. In Christ we are invited to find true purpose as we accept his invitation to abide in him as the branch abides and has life in the vine.

It is all about connection. We are invited to consider that we can abide in Christ for we are the branches and he is the vine.

In the painting 'Laughter at Dawn' by Ainslie Roberts the tree rising in the otherwise barren landscape refracts the sun and roots itself deeply to find sources of water. It makes a home for the birds and offers shade for the human community.

Catherine of Siena uses similar imagery.

*And from what source
O tree-
since of yourself you are dead and barren-
do you get these fruits of life?
From the tree of life-
for unless you are engrafted into him
you would have no power
to produce any fruit at all,
because you are nothing.*

Thank you for reading and keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Please join with The Priory as we also stay connected virtually.
Night Prayer weeknights from 09.00pm. Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook.*

Image - 'Laughter at Dawn' by Ainslie Roberts