Sunday 5th March
Praying Lent: The Wonder of Prayer

“Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.” “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.’ (Matthew 14:28-29 NLT)

Look …
What do you notice? What thoughts or feelings stir as you look into the face in this picture?

Wonder …
What might it have been like to be there – even to get involved – when Jesus was doing one of his miracles?

Pray …
Jesus Christ, miracle-worker,
Your human life overflowed with the promise of the impossible,
Calming storms, multiplying loaves, turning water to wine.
Invite us again into your wonders –
Help us leave behind our fear and cynicism,
And call us again to walk out on the water with you.
Amen.

Walking
Dry-point etching by Primrose Northrop


Sunday 12th March
Praying Lent: The Wonder of Prayer

‘When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.’ (John 11:33 NRSV)

Look …
What do you notice? What thoughts or feelings stir as you look into the face in this picture?

Wonder …
Has God ever fallen short of your expectations?

Pray …
Jesus Christ, human and divine,
Have mercy on us when all we can ask is ‘why’.
Give us grace for the times when your ways seem illogical, unreasonable, even cruel.
Give us the honesty to acknowledge our disappointments;
Give us the courage to express our anger;
Give us the patience to wait for your coming.
Amen.

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Grief
Dry-point etching by Primrose Northrop
‘When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”’

(John 11:43 NRSV)

Look ...
What do you notice? What thoughts or feelings stir as you look into the face in this picture?

Wonder ...
What gives you life? When were you last unbound?

Pray ...
Jesus Christ, giver of life,
You called us into being and you call us out of death.
We thank you for the gift of friends and family
Who help us throw off our bonds,
Who remove the stones that keep us locked in.
May we taste again the wonder of resurrection,
And may we be those who help others come back to life.
Amen.
Sunday 26th March
Praying Lent: The Wonder of Prayer

‘Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” ... So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.’ (John 13:27,30 NRSV)

Look ...
What do you notice? What thoughts or feelings stir as you look into the face in this picture?

Wonder ...
How did Judas get to this cataclysmic act of betrayal? What might we learn from his story?

Pray ...
Jesus, voice of justice and truth,
Forgive us when our frustrations drive us out into darkness;
Forgive us when our own desires end in the betrayal of another.
Grow in us, your church, a hunger for justice,
That we may step out into the night,
Carrying the light of hope to betrayer and betrayed alike.
Amen.
Sunday 2nd April  
Praying Lent: Palm Sunday

‘As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.’ (Luke 23:26 NRSV)

Look ...
What do you notice? What thoughts or feelings stir as you look into the face in this picture?

Wonder ...
What will you be carrying this week? How might that burden-bearing become a meaningful part of your journey through Holy Week?

Pray ...
Jesus Christ, suffering servant,
You know the frailty of physical weakness,
The isolation of notoriety,
The cruelty of corrupt power.
We pray for all those who suffer persecution,
That you would send cross-bearers to help them –
Allies who come alongside and help to lighten the load when they feel overwhelmed.
Amen.
**Sunday 9th April: Praying Easter**

“Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.”’ (Matthew 28:5-6 NLT)

Look …
What do you notice? What thoughts or feelings stir as you look into the face in this picture?

Wonder …
The women were on their way to perform a vital but mundane task. Have you ever been hijacked by wonder while you were just going about your business?

Pray …
Jesus, risen Lord,
Renew in us the wonder of Easter –
Interrupt us in our duties,
Surprise us in the garden of our grief,
Walk through the walls of fear and apathy
And breathe life into your church,
That we might carry news of your resurrection to the ends of the earth.
Amen.