



DWELLING IN THE WORD

- ❖ Listen to the passage read
- ❖ Consider where it 'captures' you, speaks to you and/or what question(s) it raises for you
- ❖ Walk across the room to find a person in the group you do not know or know less well, a 'reasonably friendly-looking stranger'.
- ❖ Listen to that person as he or she tells you what they heard in the passage. Then report what you heard.
- ❖ Listen well, because your job will be to report to a larger group of 4-6 what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. Some people take notes to help them focus and remember.

A prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
Though our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in Your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things You are saying;
Though we often neglect Your influence,
May we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Colossians 1.15-29

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— ²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

- Verse 1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
 forgive our foolish ways;
 re clothe us in our rightful mind,
 in purer lives thy service find,
 in deeper reverence, praise.
- Verse 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard
 beside the Syrian sea
 the gracious calling of the Lord,
 let us, like them, without a word
 rise up and follow thee.
- Verse 3 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
 till all our strivings cease;
 take from our souls the strain and stress,
 and let our ordered lives confess
 the beauty of thy peace.
- Verse 4 Breathe through the heats of our desire
 thy coolness and thy balm;
 let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
 speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
 O still, small voice of calm!