

.Three **Integrity of inner and outer world** : **surrender today**

Awaken me to your presence  
Alert me to your love,  
Affirm me in your peace.

Open to me your way  
Reveal to me your joy,  
Enfold me in your warmth.

For my heart is ready,  
Holy One, my heart is ready.

.... *Silence* .....

*From Psalm 107*

He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,  
a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.  
And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in;  
they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield.

'the daily' :: Luke 19.1-9



**Loving God**, you invite us to unite our journey with yours. Help me to make sense of some of my life through yours.

Let this image become a step towards our mutual sharing of love. Lord Jesus, show me the way.

**AMEN**

***The sacred gaze***

With the image before you, allow yourself to be drawn into the picture, open yourself to the characters and the story. Do not speak, just gaze.

Be present within it. How does it feel to be with your Lord?

What in your life does this image touch? What does it teach you?

***What Jesus said***

Come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.

Today transformation [salvation] has come to this household ...

The human and holy One [Son of man] came to seek and save the lost.

*What might it mean for the human and holy One to say any of these words to me?  
... right now in my life?*

PAUSE – don't rush on!

*What might it mean for Jesus to come and stay at my house - today?*

***Reflection***

*a GLOBAL issue:* what do we do with our capital?

can a country surrender its 'comfort' agenda for the sake of relationships,  
for the health of the planet, for just distribution of resources?

How does our world handle its wealth?

with **deceit** (tax avoidance and off-shore banking for the wealthy) or with **transparency**;

with **power** (corporations more powerful than nations – democracy subverted) or with **mutuality**;

with **self-interest** (where the market holds sway and the bottom line is always profit, not relationships or environment) or for the **common good**;

with **pride** (having a space programme gains more brownie points than eliminating abject poverty) or with **humility**;

with **force** (military budgets and vested interests in armament industries divert funds from health and well-being of entire nations) or with **compassion**;

with **economic 'wisdom'** (corporate dividends ahead of a living wage for workers who create the wealth) or with **justice**.

Where does the nation I am part of, lack integrity?

In what ways do I participate in and benefit from the injustice of our world?

What might integrity invite me to surrender today?

*A story from our global family:*

Om Kuehn was an ordinary, but poor, woman, whose husband was an alcoholic and whose son had been murdered; a deeply sincere Buddhist, she worked hard, running a shanty 'grocery store' in her simple village.

Om Kuehn had been eagerly attending the bible study gatherings in our neighbourhood, and one evening she dropped in to share ... something she believed God had spoken to her. She had read in the gospels that Jesus calls us to forgive those who have wronged us (to forgive their debts). With this new insight, she had examined her heart and found that there was something tainting her relationships in the village. Over the years, she had extended so much credit to other families that it now amounted to hundreds of dollars (a huge amount in that little slum economy). Om Kuehn realized that she felt angry and frustrated with those who owed her so much, because she would be so much further ahead in life if they paid their debts. But she also realized that those poor families were deeply ashamed of the debts they would never be able to repay, and they avoided her as much as possible. She neither wanted to feel bitter, nor to be avoided. Inspired by what she had read in the gospels, she went from family to family, and before their eyes, drew a line through their debt, declaring it forgiven. At the stroke of a pen, they were set free --- and so was she.

Jack, K. "The lesson of suffering: faith hope and love." In The Servants Quarters, Transformation issue, vol.5, no.3, Nov. 2015, p.10

*a Leunig prayer*

God help us. With great skill and energy we have ignored the state of the human heart.

With politics and economics we have denied the heart's needs. With eloquence wit and reason we have belittled the heart's wisdom.

With sophistication and style, with science and technology, we have drowned out the voice of the soul. The primitive voice, the innocent voice. The truth.

We cannot hear our heart's truth and thus we have betrayed and belittled ourselves and pledged madness to our children.

With skill and pride we have made for ourselves an unhappy society. God be with us. AMEN

***And what happened next?***

It's pretty likely that Zacchaeus was at the centre of the happenings in Acts 4.32-35 too, don't you think?

And little did Zacchaeus know how profound the impact of his decisions – in Om Kuehn's village two millennia later.

***Response***

Write your response in your journal perhaps.

Share your insights with a family member.

Make a note to find and read New Internationalist magazine or explore Servants website – [www.servantsasia.org](http://www.servantsasia.org)

***Rest***

Rest in the presence of the One who loves you. Trust that the Holy Spirit is at work today, in the depths of your spirit, deepening your faith.

May the gentleness and strength of the Holy One

The delight and vulnerability of thy Way of Christ

And the graceful mystery of the life-giving Spirit

Be with you now and always. AMEN