

Lectio Divina @ Thy Kingdom Come

Lectio Divina, or divine reading, is a very ancient form of praying with Scripture. During Lectio, we listen to the text of the Bible with the "ear of the heart", with the aim of nourishing and deepening our relationship with God.

Regular Bible reading and study gives us breadth of knowledge. Lectio helps us also absorb Scripture in depth. Though simple, it needs practice, as the slow ritual reading is very different from our modern habit of skimming text.

We will run two Lectio sessions each with two different readings, starting approximately on the hour and the half-hour. On Wed 27th May at 11am we will use **1 Kings 19:11-13** and **Matt 3:13-17**, and on Sat 30th May at 8am we will use **Ephesians 6:18-20** and **John 21:20-23**.

Don't worry if you join part way through. Please enter the meeting silently, and join in when you feel ready. If it is the period of silence, simply read the passage through slowly to yourself, and then join the time of sharing.

We suggest you spend a short time centering yourself in prayer before joining the meeting.

Please use a meaningful name, eg not 'iPad'. The common practice in video prayer groups is to keep yourself muted, unless you are speaking, and to keep your video on to build a sense of community and connection. Please switch to Gallery View so you can see everyone.

Description of each half-hour

We start with a short period of recollection, and then the leader reads through the passage from the Bible.

Based on the order the participants appear on the leader's screen, the leader calls on each in turn to share a word or phrase that has struck them. Simply share the word or phrase; do not comment either on your own or another's word. Anyone may 'pass' if they wish.

The leader reads the passage a second time. There is then a period of silence together for 5-10 minutes during which we ponder or sit with the Word in whatever way we wish.

You may want to ask yourself a question like: What gift does this passage lead me to ask from God? What does it call me to do? We first listen, we note what is given, and we respond in the way we are directed by the Holy Spirit.

After the silence, the leader reads the passage for a third time. The leader calls on each in turn to share for a minute. Speaker: time is limited, so be brief, and do not comment on what others have said. Others: please simply listen.

The leader invites everyone to pray silently for the next person on their screens, in the sense of reading a book. If time, we will have a short period of general sharing. Please raise your hand to let the leader know you wish to speak.

The leader ends with the Grace or another short prayer. Please join in very softly or with your microphone on mute.

Wed 27th May at 11am

1 Kings 19:11-13

Then the word of the Lord said to Elijah, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

Matt 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Sat 30th May at 8am

Ephesians 6:18-20

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

John 21:20-23

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

If you wish to explore prayer and Lectio further, please see the section [Explore Prayer on Exeter Cathedral's website](#).