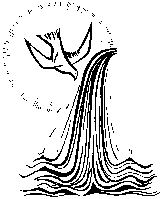
A Way to Pentecost: Wednesday



**Reading: from John 15: 9-17**

Jesus said. ‘You are my friends if you do what I command you.  
I do not call you servants any longer,  
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;  
but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you  
everything that I have heard from my Father.  
You did not choose me but I chose you.  
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

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**Wondering**  
What does it mean to be Jesus’ friend? What does it mean to me that (contrary to what I might think) I did not choose Jesus but he chose me?

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**Contemplating**   
Read the words taken from a much longer passage - which you may wish to read in full in a Missal or Bible. Do any words or phrases speak to you particularly today? What implications might they have for you?

***or***

Contemplate the scene as we have done over the past few days. You may like to say the words from the Gospel aloud - savour them and hear Jesus speaking through your voice. As you say them, how do they touch you? What expression comes into your voice? How might that be an echo of the voice of Jesus?

**Reflecting**  
We are, it is often said, "in the world but not of it" - a phrase that comes down the centuries to us from Jesus. What does it mean? Our contemplative communities are certainly clear signs of one way of living this truth. But most of us are called to live in the world - the mission of lay people being to sanctify it.

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**Praying**  
Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful.  
Consecrate us afresh in your truth,  
protect us from the temptations of our time  
and show us ways in which to make our world a happier and holier place.

**From the Sequence for Pentecost**  
If thou take thy grace away,  
Nothing pure in us will stay:  
All his good is turned to ill.

Our Father… Hail Mary… Glory be...

**Action point from the writing of Pope Francis**

When we stand before Jesus crucified, we see the depth of his love which exalts and sustains us, but at the same time, unless we are blind, we begin to realize that Jesus’ gaze, burning with love, expands to embrace all his people. We realize once more that he wants to make use of us to draw closer to his beloved people.

*(Evangelii Gaudium 268)*

* Who needs you to share the loving gaze of Jesus today – and perhaps accompany it with positive action?