

## Pathways: Hope for the Journey

1st Sunday Advent C - 29 November 2015

### Liberation

#### Your way is true Ps 24

##### Prayer Points

*Searching for the light of the Word  
 Honesty and integrity in the land  
 The Human race to love each other  
 Progress in the kind of life we're meant to lead  
 Stand erect as liberation is at hand  
 Stay awake, pray at all times.*

##### Dialogue

Advent is a time to search and appreciate other ways. Fifty years ago the Vatican II document on interfaith dialogue taught that the whole human family carries a spiritual impulse. All that is true and holy in religions and philosophies carries images of God. Mutual learning creates a common vision for the future. Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* named dialogue with ecological scientists and campaigners as integral to God's mission and Catholic living.

##### Confident not bewildered

Ecology puts humanity within a comfortable earthly home. Locating ourselves within earth's systems of nature puts us in a secure place. In that place we learn from its systems to grow new livelihoods. Humanity can progress without apocalyptic calamity.

##### Action

- Join an inter-faith group such as the Faith Ecology Network. [www.faithecology.net.au](http://www.faithecology.net.au)
- Read Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* - *On Care for Our Common Home*.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-4Jz6hImz0>
- Visit the Columban Inter-religious Dialogue Website. <http://columbanird.org/>

##### Prayers of Faithful

- Lord, you have graced our hearts with a desire for freedom. May we search for signs of your saving presence in all that surrounds us.
- Lord, you have graced our lives with diverse teachers and leaders. We pray for the negotiators on Climate Change in Paris.
- Lord you have been generous to us through the gifts of earth. May we respect them and use them responsibly as Pope Francis asks.
- Lord, you have set us in an evolving world. May we look for messages of hope so that we do not live in fear but can stand erect.
- Lord, you have graced us with the power to change for the good. May we not be lured into a self-centred lifestyle but choose to grow.



*We ourselves are dust of the earth  
 (Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made  
 up of her elements, we breathe her  
 air and we receive life and  
 refreshment from her waters.*

*Laudato Si', #2*

##### Profile

Thomas Merton was a seeker. He began his search for meaning in his life as a lover of literature. Converted to God, he searched the Scriptures and became a Cistercian monk. A prolific writer about the mystical journey he sought out the wisdom of other faiths through dialogue with prominent Asian spiritual figures. He enhanced his appreciation of Christ by relishing the practices of Zen Buddhism and communion with nature through Taoism.

**A donation for the use of this resource is appreciated**

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