

Dreden
[Dorley Welby
1] Good morning to you: and let's begin this short time of prayer & devotion with this morning prayer QQ Denis p. 157

Last week at this time the theme I was proposing to you for your reflection and prayer was the image of fire as it's used in the Bible. By way of contrast, and like that popular guessing game of one thing congruently another, my theme for you today is water — I want to use a song called "Come to the Water" and play it for you as our music break this morning: it's a bit long and repetitive, but deliberately so in a way that's intended to be soothing and reflective: these are not the raging waters of storm or tempest but the calming waters of a style of music and singing like that developed at the Taizé ecumenical centre in France: a style to help and encourage prayer and reflection on the word of God. Water is one of the strongest and most fruitful of religious images. Both the Old and New Testaments are full of references to the symbol of water: and in both the words and actions of Jesus. Water is a powerful sign... from His baptism by John in the Jordan, to the blood-and-water that flowed from His pierced side on the Cross. What Jesus said to Nicodemus, and to the woman at the well in Samaria, as well as His healing miracles in water, are somehow echoed in this song. But actually it's more directly based on a chapter in the O.T. Bk of Isaiah, ch 55. "Come to the water," the song has these words for your prayer today: "O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price, why should you pay the price except for the Lord? And let all who seek, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without strife, why should you spend your life except for the Lord? And let all who toil, let them come to the water. And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord.

Woodhead Hope
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all who labour, without rest: how can your soul find rest except for the Lord? And let all the poor, let them come to the water. Bring the ones who are laden, bring all to the Lord: bring the children without ruckle, easy to load and light, come to the Lord." The song "Come to the Water" MUSIC

PRAYER Ps 88
v1-19

Ch. 55 of the Bk of Isaiah, on which that song just now was based, is the conclusion of a section

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