

INSPIRING UNITY COURSE

SESSION 7

Materials for reflection



“We must make ourselves open to their stories, which may profoundly conflict with ours. We must even, at times, be ready to hear of their pain, humiliation and resentment and discover that their image of us is anything but our image of ourselves. We must let our world be enlarged by the presence of others who think, act and interpret reality in ways radically different from our own”

(Quotation from ‘Forward Together’ discussion, St Kentigern’s Church, February 1st 2014. Source: Jonathan Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference*)

DRAWING THE THREADS TOGETHER LOOKING AHEAD

A MOMENT TO BECOME STILL

Music: Shekinah (3.20) from *In Search of Peace*, by Teresa Brown

REFLECT BACK

“Open the door for me and take me there,
Love take my hand and lead me like the blind,
Unbandage me, unwrap me from my fear,
Open my eyes, my heart, my soul, my mind.
I struggle with these grave clothes, this dark earth,
But you are calling ‘Lazarus, come forth!’”

Malcolm Guite, *Parable and Paradox.*, Canterbury Press, 2016.

- a) Did you hear any words of hope or liberation about the stones that have to be rolled away?
- b) Responses to the *Two Sided Story*
- c) The cost of overcoming divisions

RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste; how can its saltiness be restored?” Mt 5:13

- a) What strengths and skills are there in the group and your communities to continue and deepen this work?
- b) What else do you need individually and as a group to take this work forward?
- c) Who/what else can help with this?

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- What do you feel willing or ready to do now?

WHERE HAVE WE COME FROM?

- Have you felt any changes in yourself since starting the course?
- What 'gifts' (insight/understanding, self awareness, strength, courage etc.) as an individual and as a group have you received to help sustain you for this?

A MESSAGE FOR FUTURE PARTICIPANTS

We are from North Motherwell Churches Together. Between September 2016 and February 2017 we took part in the programme, *Inspiring Unity* in order to deepen our work together.

We want to share some thoughts with you.

- What this course has meant to us as a group is
 - We have become aware of
 - As you start your journey, we ask this for you
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CLOSURE

- We pass a lighted candle to each other, offering a silent prayer
- We take a name of another group member to pray for
- A blessing

A Blessing

May the Lord bless you.

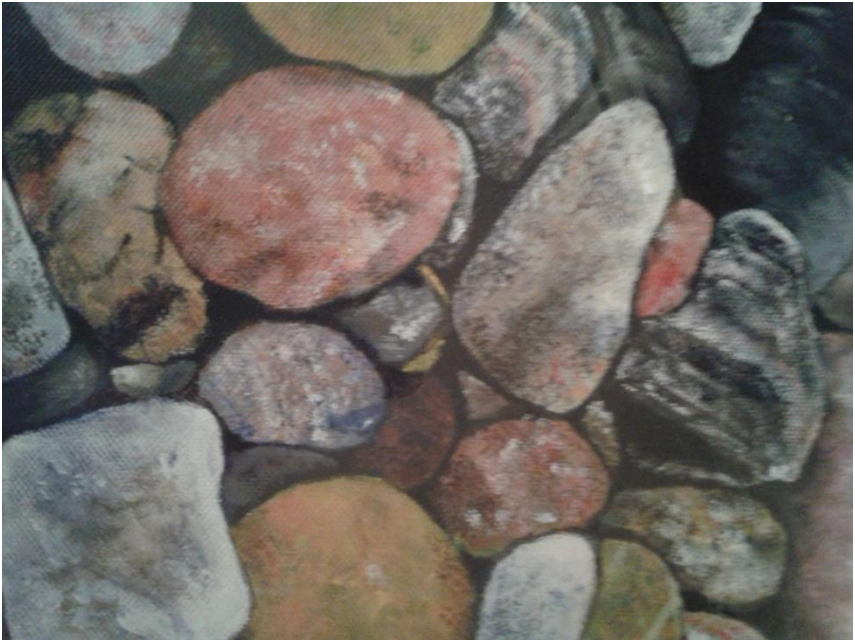
May the Lord protect you and guide you

May his strength uphold you,

his light shine upon you

his peace surround you,

his love enfold you!



Jackie Gillespie