



Introduction

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." Dame Julian of Norwich

Archbishop Rowan Williams said that Julian of Norwich's writing is "what may be the most important work of Christian Reflection in the English Language." 40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich is an opportunity to spend time being spiritually nurtured and inspired by one of the great Christian mystics. Her writings, sometimes called Showings or Revelations of Divine Love, are the earliest surviving works we have known to be written in English by a woman.

While Julian lived in the distant past (born around 1342 and died after 1416), her time was not entirely different from ours: she lived and wrote in a time that experienced the rise and fall of political and religious movements and the trauma and aftermath of war and pandemic. These similarities, much like our own time, explain in part a renewed interest in Julian's writing.

For 40 days, the reader is provided with excerpts from Scripture, Julian's writing, thoughts, prayers, and questions to meditate upon and journal about each day in Lent.

In Lisa E. Dunhill's introduction to 40 Day Journey with Julian of Norwich, she writes that Julia's theology:

- "Takes seriously biblical truths and doctrinal heritage..."
- "Opens the encompassing, radical nature of God's grace in mercy in ways that prefigure the Reformation..."
- "Invites readers into an encounter with Jesus ..."
- "Takes seriously the reality of sin and evil..."
- "Is saturated on every page with hope, delight and the love and mercy of God..." (p. 9).

Christ's church has been enriched for centuries by Julian's vivid and passionate writing, her experience of Christ and her emphasis on redemption; let us be next to be transformed by spending time with her and those we study her work with this Lent.

DAY 1	In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ,			
	Galatians 3:26-27			

He was wounded for our transgressions, DAY 2 crushed for our iniquities; ... and by his bruises we are healed. Isiah 53:5

DAY 3	In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good Genesis 1:1, 31		

DAY 4	Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Mathew 6:33			

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant."

Luke 1:46-48a
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DAY 6	
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For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

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Romans 8:38-39

DAY 7	Do not judge, so that you may not be judged, Matthew 7:1		

DAY 8	Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life. John 4:14				

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

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			1 Corinthians 2:1-2

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

death. Hebrews 2:14-15

DAY 11	Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end				
	John				

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Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

The thoughts of my afflictions and my homelessness **DAY 13** is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind. and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:19-23

DAY 14	Jesus] said to Simon [the Pharisee], "Do you see this woman? Tentered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Luke 7:44-47

The saying is sure and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.

But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

Timothy 1:15-16

DAY 16	Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.
	Matthew 7:7

DAY 17	Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. Luke 18:1

DAY 18	Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.
	1 John 3:2

Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:7-9

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DAY 20	The LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.
	1 Samuel 16:7b

DAY 21	Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights. Isaiah 42:1a

DAY 22	For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but **DAY 23** I do the very thing I hate... Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me... For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Romans 7:15, 20, 22-23

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them."

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DAY 25	But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

DAY 26	The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17: 22-23

I pray that you may have the power to comprhend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and lenggth and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knoweldge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:18	
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DAY 28	But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. John 19: 33-34

DAY 29	Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation. 1 Peter 2:2

DAY 30	How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Luke 13:34b

DAY 31	The accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb.
	Revelation 12:10c-11a

DAY 32	For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.	
	Ephesians 2:8-9	

DAY 33	There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love 1 John 4:18

I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me. Song of Songs 7:10
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DAY 35	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.
	John 15:15

DAY 36	We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

You shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

and a royal diadem in the hand of your God
Isaiah 62:2b-

Shower, O heavens, from above, **DAY 38** and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the LORD have created it. Isaiah 45:8

DAY 39	As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love John 15:

DAY 40	And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a figt from the spring of the water of life. Revelation 21: 5-6



Presbyterians Read: Faith Seeking Understanding

Presbyterians Read was conceived to provide resources for individuals, groups and congregations that would

- nurture faith,
- encourage Christian spiritual practices,
- meditate on seasonal or emergent themes in church and society and
- deepen understanding of aspects of the church's broad contemporary and historic expressions of Christian faith.

Presbyterians Read also aspires to draw the church together. By reading a book together, people associated with the Presbyterian Church at opposite ends of the country (and far outside the country) have a shared experience to talk about and exchange insights upon.

Two to three studies are produced each year. However, past resources are archived on the PCC website to be used or revisited at any time.



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