

St Bride's

Creative / Progressive / Inclusive

'WAKE UP in Liverpool' festival of spirituality

Prayer at noon

The Pool of Life

(the calm creative centre)



Introduction

In 1927 the influential Swiss analytic psychologist Carl Jung had a dream. He had never been to Liverpool, but in his dream he saw Liverpool and described it like this:

“I found myself in a dirty, sooty city. It was night, and winter, and dark, and raining. I was in Liverpool.....

In the centre was a round pool, and in the middle of it a small island. While everything round about was obscured by rain, fog, smoke and dimly lit darkness, the little island blazed with sunlight. On it stood a single tree, a magnolia, in a shower of reddish blossoms. It was as though the tree stood in the sunlight and were at the same time the source of light....

I was carried away by the beauty of the flowering tree and the sunlit island.... The dream represented my situation at the time. I can still see the grayish-yellow raincoats, glistening with the wetness of the rain. Everything was extremely unpleasant, black and opaque – just as I felt then. But I had a vision of unearthly beauty, and that is why I was able to live at all. Liverpool is the “pool of life.”

So, let this pool be a symbol of the still calm creative centre, the presence of God in us, from which we can participate in a city of life and love.

Opening Prayer

**We gather at the pool of life,
a symbol of the calm creative centre from which life flows.
We come with a vision and a prayer:**

**a vision of the city in which people live, work and play
with peace, health, harmony and fulfilment**

**a prayer that the people of this and every city
will find within themselves and within the city
the still, calm, creative centre of the presence of God,
from which life and love must flow.**

Shared Silence

Be still and aware of God's Presence within, among and all around.



A Reading

There was a pool of water in Jerusalem, described in the Gospel of John chapter 5, a pool associated with healing.

‘Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called *Bethesda*, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, “Do you want to get well?”

The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.”

Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off.’

reflect on the reading and the meaning of the Pool of Life for you

Pause for Prayers

say a prayer, silent or spoken, pray for the life of the world

The Beatitudes (Matt 5)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who grieve, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the compassionate, for they shall receive compassion.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are those who make peace, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are mistreated unfairly, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

A Blessing

**May the people of this city find
the calm creative centre within themselves
from which life, health and peace flow.**

**May this city prosper and become
a place of goodness, beauty, truth, love and compassion.**

**May this city flow with creative energy
that brings great delight.**

**“All you need is love, all together now
All you need is love, everybody
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need”**



