

Dwelling in the Word 2024



Luke 1: 46-55
NRSV

A Prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
Though our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in Your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things You are saying;
Though we often neglect Your influence,
May we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

At the end:

Loving God,
We thank you that we are able to listen to you
Through scripture and each other.
Help us to hold your words in our hearts.
We ask you to bless us
In all that we are, and say, and do.
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



⁴⁶ And Mary said,
⁴⁷ 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness
of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call
me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for
me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of
their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our
ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Luke 1:46-55

Dwelling in the Word is grounded in the ancient practice of Lectio Divina: we hear a passage and, guided by the Holy Spirit, see where our attention is drawn. The differences with Dwelling are; that we listen to, and then share, what has struck someone else in the passage, and that we remain with the passage over a year. This is just one approach to engaging with scripture, but experience has shown that it can be profoundly helpful in building us up as Christian community. We invite you to join others across the diocese in Dwelling in the passage in 2023.

Guidance for leading Dwelling in the Word

- Begin with prayer (e.g. the one on this sheet).
- Ideally find two different people to read the passage.
- Tell people what they are doing *before* they hear the passage - often people need reassurance that this is not a test of Bible knowledge but just seeing where their attention is drawn.
- After the passage being read twice slowly, remind people what they are doing and send them into pairs - ideally a 'friendly-looking stranger' but possibly just the person they are next to.
- They share in their pairs what they noticed. Each person should speak without being interrupted and both need time to speak. They will be reporting back what their partner said, not what they noticed. It's not a memory test, so notes are fine!
- After pairs, depending on your group size, you can get people to feed back in fours or to the whole group.
- Finish either with a prayer or some reflection on the practice.

[Join Dwelling in the Word across Bath and Wells by registering for the monthly online meetings via the online form.](#)

bathandwells.org.uk/dwelling-in-the-word

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