

## **WHO IS JESUS?**

***Jesus is the grace of God: gift and response:***

***Learning to live in good times and bad***

*We are a marvelous mixture of well-being and woe.*

Julian of Norwich

*My inconsistencies are but the revelation of who I am. ...I am full of contradiction: to realize it is mercy, to accept it is love and to help others do the same is compassion.*

Thomas Merton

*...behind and beneath the smooth wheels of the socially constructed world are two abiding facts: unreconciled pain and unexhausted compassion.*

Rowan Williams

*There are only two feelings...two languages...two activities...two motives.... Two results: love and fear.*

Michael Leunig

*Peace and love are always in us, living and working. But we are not always in peace and love.*

Julian of Norwich

Thomas Merton says that for Julian “the heart of theology [is] not solving the contradiction, but remaining in the midst of it, knowing that it is fully solved, but that the solution is secret, and will never be guessed until it is revealed”. Again and again we are invited in the gospels and in the Christian tradition not to “trap” Jesus in propositions about him, but live out of the dispositions (or attitudes) that lead to life and freedom.

Julian says that there are two truths: “we are not always in peace and love” which is the lower truth or relative truth: and “peace and love are always in us, living and working” which is the higher truth or absolute truth. Both are true. Never deny the lower truth, but NEVER NEVER forget the higher truth. When we live out of the higher truth we live our true vocation to be ourselves, fully alive, fully human and free.

*In God's sight we do not fall; in our own sight we do not stand; and both of these are true as I see it. The way our Lord sees is the higher truth.*

Julian of Norwich

**Get in touch with the inconsistencies and contradictions in your life.**

**How have you lived with them?**

**What graces and dispositions would you need to live creatively into the fruitfulness and paradox of the Paschal Mystery, of “dying, and behold, we live”.**

---

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

Contact: [juliancentre@gmail.com](mailto:juliancentre@gmail.com)