

LEARNING JESUS

*Harry Williams said that "I cannot properly say 'I believe' unless it's another way of saying 'I am'". Following or experiencing Jesus, **learning** Jesus, is a deeply and personally involving enterprise. "There are questions we are the solution to" (R.S. Thomas).*

Do not be afraid.

Matthew 10:31

We are to live as Jesus lived: in the memory of God's love which brings freedom, in the hope of resurrection which brings life, and in the peace of living in the present moment which dispels fear.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

John 15:5

Jesus, as the imagination of God, offers us a compelling image of the communion which is our true home and destiny, our gift and task. This is the "hidden wholeness" which is our birthright. This is not something we have to earn, fight for or achieve: it is given. "All we need is to take time to experience what we've already been given." (Thomas Merton)

For freedom Christ has set us free.

Galatians 5:1

Jesus was uniquely free. He created a space within himself in order to be available for every encounter. This is the source of his authority and attractiveness. **Learning** Jesus means being brave enough to resist, in our loneliness for example, calling someone up, going shopping, taking a drug, turning on the TV, or going to bed. Instead of fleeing the experience - choosing an illusory freedom - we choose to go down into it, and there, gradually, notice another Presence there, silent, good, peaceful. Here genuine freedom awaits us.