

Contemplative Space 19 June 2026, 8pm.

Psalm 16

11. You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 62

8. Trust in God at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to God,
for God is our refuge.

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection (1614-1691), after a life of turmoil including a leg wound as a soldier in the 30 Years War, joined the Carmelite Monastery in Paris. He is often known as the friar of the pots and pans. He had no formal education, but has been a source of inspiration for thousands. His lifetime included several episodes of the plague in France, as well as the extremely cold weather of the Little Ice Age. Our passage is from the recent translation of Brother Lawrence's book **Practice of the Presence** by Carmen Acevedo Butcher.

"The first benefit that the soul receives from the practice of the presence of God is that its faith becomes more alive and more active in all life's situations, especially where we most need it. This prayer easily finds grace for us in our temptations, and in our inevitable daily dealings with other people created and fallible just like us. In these moments the soul, accustomed to the practice of faith by this exercise, sees and senses God present by a simple remembering.....

The practice of the presence of God strengthens our hope. Our hope grows in proportion to our knowledge of Love. Through this sacred exercise our love increases as our faith experiences the secrets of the divinity. ...Our hope grows stronger and stronger as again and again we are calmed and sustained by the generosity of this Friendship we long for, and in some way already enjoy....

By turning inwards with a glance to God, and practising the presence, through this returning awareness the soul becomes so familiar with divinity that the soul spends practically all its life in continual acts of love, reverence, contrition, trust, gratitude, giving, asking help and all the best habits. Sometimes this prayer even develops into only one act that never stops, because the soul constantly practises this exercise of God's divine presence."

Prayer

May we find our own ways of practising the presence, living our lives rooted in
Love
Generosity
Receptivity
And solidarity with all living beings.