

# HOLY HALF HOUR – MARCH 2020

## GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD THIS LENT

### Hymn: Father we adore you

Lord I turn my face towards you. I want to soak in your refreshing words of life. I want to cast aside my sinful ways and turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of your love. Bathe me Lord in the gentle power of your Spirit. Let me be honest with myself as I introspect. May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever with abundant grace. Transform me this lent. (*Silence*)

God wants all human beings to be “holy souls” and thus “friends of God and prophets”. The only way to the fulfillment of God’s dream for our world is for more and more human beings to accept God’s offer of friendship. My God give me strength to commit myself to grow closer and deeper in friendship with you. (*Silence*)

We will now listen to a reading from Scripture: James 4:4-10 To be proclaimed from the Bible. (*Silence*)

### Reflection:

- God wants to be friends with us. It is difficult to imagine this with our limited human version of love. We know our flaws and shortcomings and are certain that if God really knew us, God would be disappointed. But the fact is God wants our friendship “You did not choose me, but I chose you” Jesus assures us. Accepting this friendship with God means putting aside our fears and asking God to help us. (*Silence*)
- There are many types of friendships in our lives – a friend in my happy times, those in my sad moments, my everyday friends, my special friends. All these friends offer a piece of themselves to me. God is the totality of all of my human friends in one. God offers a relationship that encompasses all of these different type of friendships. Jesus is my forever friend. (*Silence*)
- He sits with me in silence, rejoices with me, laughs with me, celebrates with me, supports me in touch times and walks with me in my day to day life. (*Silence*)
- What a friend we have in Jesus. I share with Jesus my deepest thoughts and desires. I offer my gifts and talents to build God’s kingdom. As I spend more time talking and listening to Him, God and I develop a deep abiding friendship. (*Silence*)

### Hymn: What a friend

**Intercessions:**

*Response: Draw me close to you Lord*

- In moments of intense longing for sex, money, power and other things sinful.
- In moments of overindulgence and overconsumption of anything to the point of waste.
- In moments of artificial desire, hoarding, violence, theft, robbery, manipulation, pursuit of material possessions.
- In moments of anger, rage and hatred.
- In moments of envy and jealousy.
- In moments of pride and a feeling of superiority.
- In moments of laziness, boredom, apathy and lack of interest.

We end with the beautiful prayer that Jesus taught us... **Our Father**

**Concluding Prayer:**

Friendship with God means that I have to make time to draw close to him, revere Him, listen to Him share His plans for me, rejoice at His counsel and trust His corrections, obey Him, celebrate and not compete with him. Friendship with God means to have a pure heart and speak with grace, love him intimately, sacrificially and unwaveringly. Help me to be open and willing to accept and grow in God's friendship this lent. **Amen.**

**Hymn: Draw me close to you/Draw me O Lord**

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