

12th July 2020

Lingering

**"They are all gone into the world of light,
And I alone sit lingering here."**

Henry Vaughan, Silex Scintillans

Fathers' Day has come and gone long since, yet I'm reluctant to take down the cards I received from my children, because their continued presence reminds me of the importance of lingering. Fathers' Day this year was the first time in lockdown one of our daughters visited with our grandsons. Cards were handed over, of course. But more precious is the memory of the visit. The cards on display allows the effect of a special time to linger.

We all have physical things that allow us to linger over a memory: the funeral Order of Service with the photo of a loved-one on the front; the concert programme which sits on the coffee-table for ages; the photograph on *Facebook* which pops up randomly in our "Facebook Memories", years after the event; the faded letter we find at the back of a drawer ... all tangible reminders of something or someone important to us, allowing us to linger, just like this year's Fathers' Day cards do for me.

The Gospels have a story about lingering. Jesus takes his disciples up a hill and he is transformed – "transfiguration" we call it – and with him appear Moses and Elijah. And Peter says, "We want to linger here. Let's build shelters so we can stay and hold onto the moment – perhaps for ever." Of course, they can't. They have to go down the hill and get on with life. Lingering? Oh, but they did that too, beyond Peter's tangible shelters, the physical necessity he believed was the only way. For if they hadn't, how would we know the story and the effect the transfiguration had on them?

Why not spend some time lingering today, with things and people that matter to you, through a photograph, a gift, a card, a personal item? And if you don't have "things" like Peter's shelters, linger a while with the memories, the effects, the significance, the importance, the story. And as you do, perhaps you'll be lingering in a place of transformation in your life and faith, and you might even be spending time lingering with your God.

A prayer for today

Lord, it is good to be here with you. Might I linger in your presence a wee bit longer?

Thank you. That's just what I needed. Amen

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

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