

Dear friends,

I have recorded a YouTube video I have called “Offensive Grace” because while we sentimentalise Grace, in truth it actually undermines our entire system of Merit and Justice. If you’d like to watch it you can do so by clicking here. <https://youtu.be/otJItMekMEI>

Alternatively, if you’d prefer to read it you can do so by clicking on my Blog here. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/09/offensive-grace.html>

Louise and I are off for a couple of weeks now. Speak to you all again in October!

Two short poems That speak into two opposing aspects of spiritual life and death. One by Raymond Carver called “Late fragment”

And did you get what
You wanted from this life, even so?
I did.

And what did you want?
To call myself beloved, to feel myself
Beloved on the earth.

And one by Eibhlin Nic Eochaidh called “How to kill a living thing”

Neglect it
Criticise it to its face
Say how it kills the light
Traps all the rubbish
Bores you with its green.
Continually
Harden your heart
Then cut it down close
To the root as possible
Forget it
For a week or a month
Return with an axe
Split it with one blow
Insert a stone
To keep the wound wide open

The prayer for today is the third collect at the end of Evensong that I sing. Once I've got this far, I know I've negotiated the service and don't have to worry about singing anything wrongly after this one!

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Love and peace,
Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk