

St Philip's Church

A Community of Prayer and Mission

Authentic in Relationships

Brave in Mission

Creative in Expression

Devoted to God

John 3:16-17

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. .

Luke 5:15-16

¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

John 14:15-20

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^l in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

John 15:9-17

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

John 15:9-17

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mission

'for the sake of others'

'sent'

'disciple making'

Whole Church Meeting

Wednesday 28th February

'personal & community audit'

Prayer

&

Devotion to God

1 Thessalonians 5:17

... pray continually ...

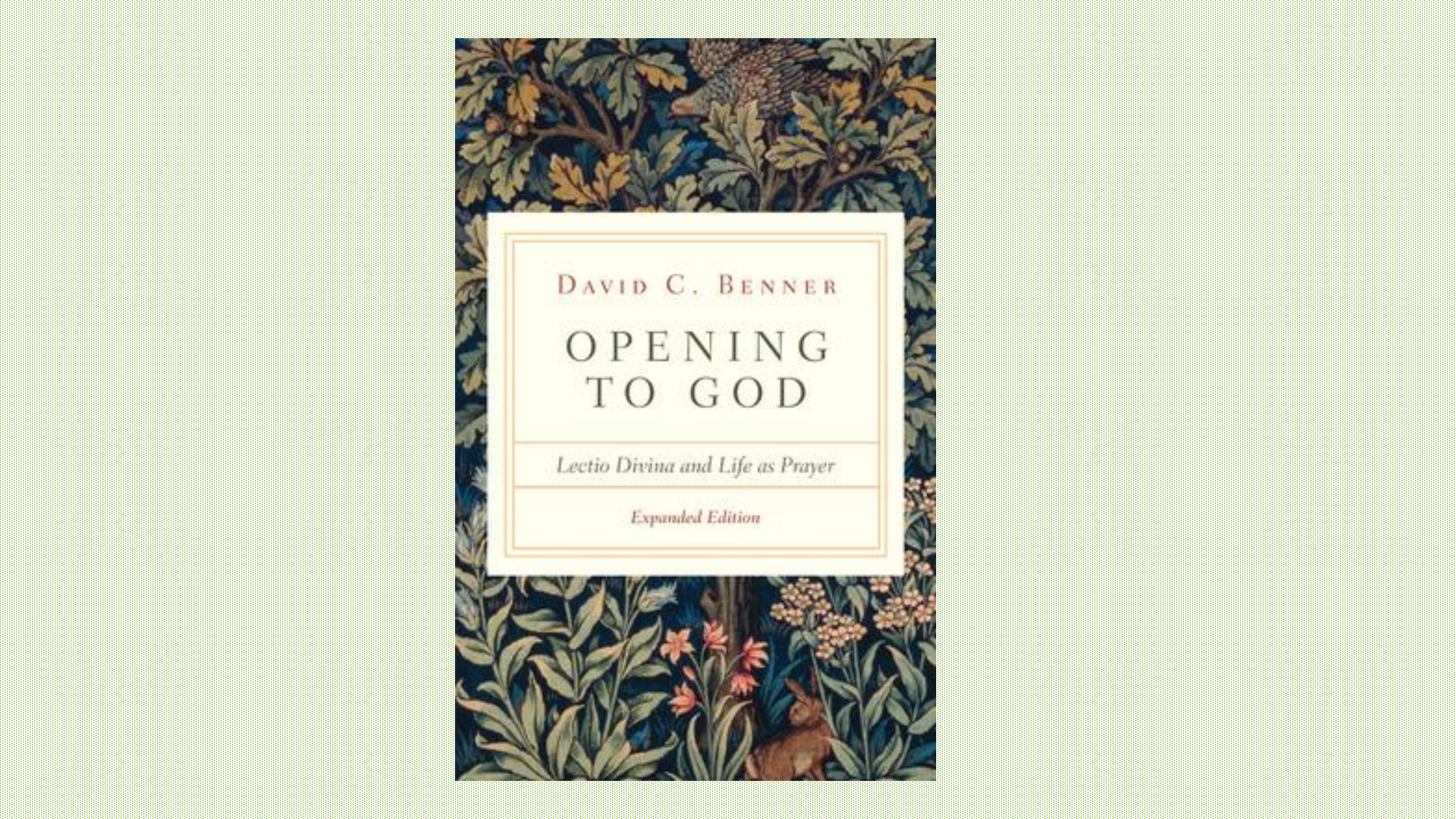
Prayer as friendship with God

Prayer as

God being with me

&

me being with God.



DAVID C. BENNER

OPENING
TO GOD

Lectio Divina and Life as Prayer

Expanded Edition

Prayer as

❖ **Conversation**
listening & talking

❖ **Doing with**

❖ **Being with**

Prayer using

❖ **Words**

❖ **Our Senses**

five senses & intuition

❖ **Our bodies**

❖ **Creativity**

Four Movements

<i>Lectio</i>	Prayer as attending
<i>Meditatio</i>	Prayer as pondering
<i>Oratio</i>	Prayer as responding
<i>Contemplatio</i>	Prayer as being

Contemplative Prayer

Prayer as
Being with God

Forms of Contemplative Prayer

- ❖ Soaking
- ❖ Meditating on a Gospel story
 - ❖ Lectio Divina
 - ❖ The Jesus Prayer
 - ❖ Centering Prayer
 - ❖ Welcoming Prayer

David Benner

I am convinced that truly opening our self to God has enormous potential for the transformation of our inner life, changes that can then ripple out through our body in our behaviour and the world....

Because all true prayer involves opening our self to God, all prayer is capable of being a means of grace by which God does this work in us. But the prayer that gives the most penetrating access to our depths is offered in stillness. Prayer that includes a contemplative dimension has potential to reorganize our interior landscape in ways that we cannot imagine - and all for the good!

Contemplative prayer is not so much a type of prayer as something that should be a component of all prayer. It is the silence and space for stillness before God that supports genuine presence and openness to God. A life of prayer that is exclusively built around attending, pondering or responding will not have the same transformational possibilities as that which also includes times of simply being with God.

Letting go of expectations
or pressures

What can happen when
we make space just to be
with God...

We are confronted by
ourselves.

How might you make
space for being with God?