

Today is Tuesday the 24 September, in the 25th Week of Ordinary Time.

Diana Stanbridge sings, "With You". As you enter into prayer now, can you pause for a moment and reflect on the moments you have known God very close to you? perhaps you feel this now?

Today's reading is from the Book of Ezra.

When the people of Israel had been taken into exile in Babylon, the Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed. Now they were able to rebuild it. Picture, for a moment or two, their joy and relief at this unexpected turn of events.

The Temple is a strong symbol for the people of Israel that God is with them. What helps to remind you that God is always with you, wherever you go?

This passage portrays powerfully a community worshipping God together. The faith shown here is not simply a relationship between an individual and God. What are the communities that have helped you to know and serve God better?

Notice, as the passage is read again, the different ways that the people respond to this chance to rebuild their religious lives together.

Speak, finally, to the God who is with you here and now about what God's presence in this way means to you.