Friday 4 September

Today is Friday the 4 September, in the 22nd week of Ordinary Time.

One Hope Project sings, 'Come Close'. Spend a moment preparing for prayer, preparing for this time with God....becoming aware of your surroundings, knowing that God’s presence sanctifies this place and makes it holy.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.

At the beginning of his letter, Paul has been challenging the spiritual health of the Corinthians. Now in true courtroom drama he turns the focus onto himself. Not only himself, but all those who are considered leaders in the Church. We all have expectations of those in authority. Do we have more expectations of those with spiritual authority? Have you made judgements on those who, you feel, hold the higher spiritual ground? If a leader, do you feel measured by others, that there are expectations you are meant to live up to? How does this make you feel?

Paul reminds us of our oneness, our unity in the Lord. Unity is most challenged by judgement. Judgement that is not ours to make. How would we live if we believed this?

As you listen to the reading again allow Paul’s words to be a reassurance of the desire God has for you.

In your prayer, share with the Lord anything that this passage had brought to mind. Ask where God’s mercy and grace can flourish in your life today.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.