

a retreat guide to  
*Vulnerable Faith*

Missional Living in the Radical Way of St. Patrick



*by Jamie Arpin-Ricci*

First Printing - 2015

Unless otherwise designated, Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV), copyright © 1989 by the Division of Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in an electronic retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means— electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

Published by Jamie Arpin-Ricci & Paraclete Press  
Winnipeg, Manitoba [www.jamiearpinricci.com](http://www.jamiearpinricci.com)  
Brewster, Massachusetts [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com)  
Printed in the United States of America



## Introducing the Retreat

“A heart of flesh is a heart that is vulnerable, one that is at risk of being wounded. But a heart of flesh is also capable of tenderness, a heart that can love.”  
-Jean Vanier, from the foreword of “Vulnerable Faith”

The following resource is designed to help individuals and groups who are reading “Vulnerable Faith: Missional Living in the Radical Way of St. Patrick” get the most out of the experience. It includes prayers, Scripture readings, reflections and readings. While it is set up as a five day retreat guide, you can use the book in any way that serves you. Some might do one session a week, others might take the full five days, while still others might do the whole guide over a weekend. Do what works best for you and/or your group.

*Read the introduction of “Vulnerable Faith” (pg. 13-22)*

As the introduction indicates, the path of Jesus modelled by St. Patrick is a path of sacrifice and service. It is a path to and beyond the cross of Christ. Therefore, be sure to give yourself the time you need to process the questions and themes in the book. Like anything of value in life, the more you put into this process, the more you will get out of it.

Again, while this can be used as a private resource for individuals, I highly encourage you to consider using it with at least one other person, if not a small group. In addition to the themes centering around what it means to build community (making a group context quite helpful), it can also raise strong feelings and memories for many people. Having others around who you trust can make this process safer and more productive.

*Read Chapter 1 of “Vulnerable Faith” (pg. 23-31)*

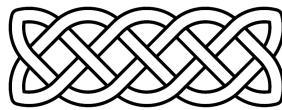
## Prayer

*Father God, who unites us together as one body, one family, sister and brother.  
May your name be made holy by your Word and by the witness of us, your people.  
May your kingdom be established here and now, in and through us.  
May your will be our first and most immediate priority, just as it is to the angels above.  
Provide for us all and only what we need for life together and obedience to you.  
Let the gift of your undeserved grace for us overflow from us onto those who have  
wronged us, where everything that is owed is fully forgiven.  
Lead us on your path, away from the empty promises of our selfish temptations.  
Rescue us from every scheme of sin and darkness which would take us from that path.  
For you are King, this is your kingdom and we are your citizens and servants.  
All we are, all we have and all we will do is by your power and for your glory alone,  
in the past, in the present and in the future.*

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Jamie Arpin-Ricci, “The Cost of Community”, (Downers Grove, IL; InterVarsity Press, 2011), 164



## Day One: *Hidden Nakedness*

### Opening Prayer

*Gracious God, we come before you to confess:  
we have not lived out the folly of the Gospel  
You call us to be poor in spirit,  
yet we often place our desires over the needs of others.  
You call us to mourn,  
yet we insulate ourselves from the rain surrounding us.  
You call us to be meek,  
yet we struggle to appear strong and superior.  
You call us to thirst for righteousness,  
yet we want to take the easiest path.  
You call us to be pure in heart,  
yet our hearts are pulled in many directions.  
You call us to be peacemakers,  
yet we struggle to live in peace with those closest to us  
and we are too often silent about the warring ways of our nation.  
Forgive us, O God,  
and help us to follow the way of Jesus ever more faithfully.  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>*

### Scripture

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman,*

*“Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?”*

*The woman said to the serpent,*

*“We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”*

---

<sup>2</sup> Joanna Harader, “Words for Worship 2”, (Scottsdale, PN; Herald Press, 2009), 50

*But the serpent said to the woman,*

*“You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. (Gen. 3:1-7)*

## **St. Patrick’s Story**

*Read the first part of St. Patrick’s story found in Chapter 2 (pg. 33-37).*

Whether you are reading it alone or as part of a group, read the section out loud. For those reading in groups, I encourage you to listen with your eyes closed, forming the images of the story in your mind’s eye. Imagine yourself present in that moment. As you do so, it can be helpful to consider the setting of the story by paying attention to your senses:

*What do you see?*

*What do you hear?*

*What do you feel?*

*What do you smell?*

*What do you taste?*

Now, having reflected on these senses, building the setting in your mind’s eye, read through the story again with that in place. Pay attention to each person, what they say, how they respond, in word or gesture. Allow the story to come to life.

## Reflection

*Read the remainder of Chapter 2 (pg. 37-51)*

Take a moment to think of your deepest, darkest, most shameful secret—that thing you would be terrified to have revealed to your family and friends.

*How do you feel about this secret?*

*What goes through your mind as you think about it?*

Now, imagine you *had* to tell people this secret. Imagine having to tell your closest friends, family, spouse, parent or anyone you would most fear sharing it with.

*How do you feel about the prospect of having to tell them? Will it change how they see you? How will it change the way they treat you or relate to you?*

*What would it cost you to tell this truth? What pretenses are you holding on to? Why? How have they negatively impacted your relationships with God and others?*

*How would letting go of these false faces bring you closer to Christ?*

## Scripture

*Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him,*

*“Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”*

*They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them,*

*“Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”*

*And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her,*

*“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”*

*She said,*

*“No one, sir.”*

*And Jesus said,*

*“Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”*  
*(John 8:2-11)*

## Closing Prayer

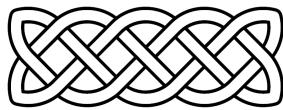
*God, give me grace to accept with serenity  
The things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
Which should be changed,  
And the Wisdom to distinguish  
The one from the other.*

*Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.*

*Amen.<sup>3</sup>*

---

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serenity\\_Prayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serenity_Prayer)



## Day Two: *The Cross*

### **Opening Prayer**

Holy God,

the earth waits in silence:

we tremble before your throne.

On this day we see and feel the immensity of your love  
and our own unworthiness.

Open our hearts now to receive your redeeming grace.

We pray in the name of our Savior. Amen.

We have seen the suffering of our Savior;  
we have marvelled at the abundance of God's grace.

Now go forth as loved and forgiven people  
and share the love of Christ in the world.<sup>4</sup> Amen.

### **Scripture**

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed!*

*Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.*  
(Gal. 1:6-10)

### **St. Patrick's Story**

*Read the second part of St. Patrick's story found in Chapter 3 (pg. 53-57)*

---

<sup>4</sup> "Words for Worship 2", (Scottsdale, PN; Herald Press, 2009), 210

Whether you are reading it alone or as part of a group, read the section out loud. For those reading in groups, I encourage you to listen with your eyes closed, forming the images of the story in your mind's eye. Imagine yourself present in that moment. As you do so, it can be helpful to consider the setting of the story by paying attention to your senses:

*What do you see?*

*What do you hear?*

*What do you feel?*

*What do you smell?*

*What do you taste?*

Now, having reflected on these senses, building the setting in your mind's eye, read through the story again with that in place. Pay attention to each person, what they say, how they respond, in word or gesture. Allow the story to come to life.

## Reflection

*Read the remainder of Chapter 3 (pg. 57-78)*

Consider the meaning of Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

*What does it mean to you? What does it mean that the “wages of sin is death”?*

Now, consider the meaning of 1 Corinthians 15:56: “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.”

*What does this mean to you? How does it contrast with the previous verse?*

The fourth step of Alcoholics Anonymous's 12 Steps invites us to make a “a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves”.

*Are you willing to make such an inventory? If not, why not? If so, when?*

## Scripture

*For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?*

*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.*

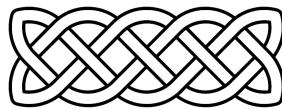
*And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. (1 John 3:11-24)*

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, Son of Mary, Jesus, Son of God,  
Speak to us in the silence.  
We taste bread and wine-  
    common elements of a communion meal;  
    one cup, one loaf, uncommon sustenance.  
We consider the servant symbol-  
    a kneeling slave holding towel and basin, a royal posture.  
We hear the cock crow at daybreak-  
    reminder of lurking denial, forerunner of repentance.  
We touch spikes of thorn-  
    twisted circle of pain, a piercing halo.  
Jesus, speak to us in the silence.<sup>5</sup>  
Amen.

---

<sup>5</sup> Linda Reimer Geiser, "Words for Worship 2", (Scottsdale, PN; Herald Press, 2009), 208



## Day Three: *The Tomb*

### Opening Prayer

When there are no words to speak healing into our hurt,  
we gather together in the sound of sheer silence.  
When we feel inadequate to come into the Presence,  
we grovel at the foot of the Savior.  
When we don't even have the energy to pray,  
We rely on the Spirit to cry out on our behalf.  
*Lord, hear our cry. Amen.*<sup>6</sup>

### Scripture

*From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

*Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”*

*Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”*

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.*

*“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” (Matthew 16:21-28)*

---

<sup>6</sup> Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg, “Words for Worship 2”, (Scottsdale, PN; Herald Press, 2009), 275

## St. Patrick's Story

*Read the third part of St. Patrick's story found in Chapter 4 (pg. 79-82).*

Whether you are reading it alone or as part of a group, read the section out loud. For those reading in groups, I encourage you to listen with your eyes closed, forming the images of the story in your mind's eye. Imagine yourself present in that moment. As you do so, it can be helpful to consider the setting of the story by paying attention to your senses:

*What do you see?*

*What do you hear?*

*What do you feel?*

*What do you smell?*

*What do you taste?*

Now, having reflected on these senses, building the setting in your mind's eye, read through the story again with that in place. Pay attention to each person, what they say, how they respond, in word or gesture. Allow the story to come to life.

## Reflection

*Read the remainder of Chapter 4 (pg. 82-99)*

The sixth step of AA's 12 Steps asks us if we are entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. "Entirely" is a big word.

*Which "defects of character" do you need God to remove?*

*Which are the most difficult?*

When Jesus called Peter to walk on water, there was nothing Peter could do to be prepared for that. All he could do was to step out of the boat and trust God.

*What areas in your life is God calling you to "step out of the boat" on?*

Jesus reminds us that there is no greater love than when we lay down our lives for those we love (remembering that we are called to love even our enemies).

*How might God be calling you to extend sacrificial love in service of others?*

## Scripture

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,*

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:1-13)*

## Closing Prayer

Dearest Jesus, who wept at the death of your friend  
and taught that they who mourn shall be comforted,  
grant us the comfort of your presence in our loss.  
Send Your Holy Spirit to direct us  
lest we make hasty or foolish decisions.

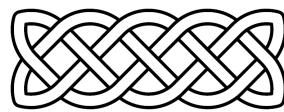
Send Your Spirit to give us courage  
lest through fear we recoil from living.  
Send Your Spirit to bring us your peace  
lest bitterness, false guilt, or regret take root in our hearts.

The Lord has given.  
The Lord has taken away.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=3142>



## Day Four: *Resurrection*

### Opening Prayer

I believe in the Son  
I believe in the risen One  
I believe I overcome  
By the power of His blood

Amen, Amen  
I'm alive, I'm alive  
Because He lives  
Amen, Amen  
Let my song join the one that never ends  
Because He lives

I was dead in the grave  
I was covered in sin and shame  
I heard mercy call my name  
He rolled the stone away

Amen, Amen  
I'm alive, I'm alive  
Because He lives  
Amen, Amen  
Let my song join the one that never ends

Because He lives  
I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives  
Every fear is gone  
I know He holds my life my future in His hands

Amen, Amen  
I'm alive, I'm alive

Because He lives  
Amen, Amen  
Let my song join the one that never ends  
Because He lives  
Because He lives<sup>8</sup>

Amen.

## Scripture

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:16-21)*

## St. Patrick's Story

*Read the fourth part of St. Patrick's story found in Chapter 5 (pg. 101-103)*

Whether you are reading it alone or as part of a group, read the section out loud. For those reading in groups, I encourage you to listen with your eyes closed, forming the images of the story in your mind's eye. Imagine yourself present in that moment. As you do so, it can be helpful to consider the setting of the story by paying attention to your senses:

*What do you see?*

*What do you hear?*

*What do you feel?*

*What do you smell?*

*What do you taste?*

---

<sup>8</sup> Matt Maher, Because He Lives (Amen), 2014 Provident Label Group LLC, a unit of Sony Music Entertainment

Now, having reflected on these senses, building the setting in your mind's eye, read through the story again with that in place. Pay attention to each person, what they say, how they respond, in word or gesture. Allow the story to come to life.

## Reflection

*Read the remainder of Chapter 5 (pg. 104-117)*

The Body of Christ- the Church- in both it's universal and local forms, is meant to reflect the image of God in which we were created. A community of united diversity, much like the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Are you part of a community of genuine acceptance, trust and love?*

*How could you foster healthier community among your current relationships?*

We all have fears and failings that hold us bondage, but the idea of sharing them with others can be crippling. Yet the desire to do so seems to be hardwired into our nature as people.

*Do you practice confession in your life? How can you be more intentional about it?*

## Scripture

*When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:31-35)*

## Closing Prayer

O Risen Lord, be our resurrection and life.

Be the resurrection and the life for us and all whom you have made.

Be the resurrection and the life for those caught in the grip of sin and addiction.

Be the resurrection and the life for those who feel forsaken.

Be the resurrection and the life for those who live as if you do not.

Be the resurrection and the life for those who do not believe they need resurrection and life.

Be the resurrection and the life in churches that believe they are dying, and in successful churches who don't know they are dead.

Be the resurrection and the life in us who know the good but fail to do it, who have not been judged but still judge, who know love but still live for self, who know hope but succumb to despair.

Be the resurrection and the life for those dying of malnutrition and hunger.

Be the resurrection and life for those imprisoned unjustly and those imprisoned justly.

Be the resurrection and life for those who live under regimes that seek to crush all who proclaim resurrection and life.

Be the resurrection and the life for those in the throes of sickness that leads to death.

Be the resurrection and the life in families where the weak are maltreated by the strong.

Be the resurrection and the life in marriages that are disintegrating.

Be the resurrection and the life for women trafficked and enslaved by the forces of wickedness.

Be the resurrection and the life for those whose lives are snuffed out in the womb.

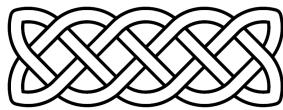
Be the resurrection and the life for anyone anywhere who knows suffering and death in any form, and for Creation itself, which groans in travail.

Be the resurrection and the life in the life we share and the fellowship we enjoy, that filled anew with the wonder of your love and the power of your grace, we may go forth to proclaim your resurrection life to a world in the grip of death and yet on the verge of redemption, a redemption promised by you and assured by what occurred on the first Easter morn.

Amen.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/aprilweb-only/resurrectionprayer.html>



## Day Five: *Pentecost*

### Opening Prayer

O God, you have gathered us in to sing your mighty power.  
You have loaned us our lives,  
and we are ever in your care.  
There is no place that we can go but you are present there.  
So we say, “Holy Spirit,  
come with power!  
We expect you this glad hour!”  
Amen.<sup>10</sup>

### Scripture

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

*Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” (Acts 2:1-13)*

---

<sup>10</sup> Chad Mason, “Words for Worship 2”, (Scottsdale, PN; Herald Press, 2009), 225

## **St. Patrick's Story**

*Read the fifth part of St. Patrick's story found in Chapter 6 (pg. 119-122)*

Whether you are reading it alone or as part of a group, read the section out loud. For those reading in groups, I encourage you to listen with your eyes closed, forming the images of the story in your mind's eye. Imagine yourself present in that moment. As you do so, it can be helpful to consider the setting of the story by paying attention to your senses:

*What do you see?*

*What do you hear?*

*What do you feel?*

*What do you smell?*

*What do you taste?*

Now, having reflected on these senses, building the setting in your mind's eye, read through the story again with that in place. Pay attention to each person, what they say, how they respond, in word or gesture. Allow the story to come to life.

## **Reflection**

*Read the remainder of Chapter 6 (pg. 122-144)*

Jesus taught and modelled that the gift of salvation is not given us for our sakes alone, but so that we can also share the hope of God with others.

*How are you participating in the work of God to share His love with others?*

The mission of St. Patrick was tied directly to his experiences as a captured slave. In other words, it was out of his brokenness that his ministry emerged.

*Is your redeemed brokenness the source of your calling and ministry? How so?*

When we declare Jesus our Lord, it means that He becomes our master- His priorities become our priorities.

*Which priorities in your life might be getting in the way of putting God's purposes first?*

## Scripture

*After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,*

*“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

*And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,*

*“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*

*Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

*(Rev. 7:9-14)*

## Closing Prayer

Come, O Holy Spirit, come!

From Your bright and blissful Home Rays of healing light impart.

Come, Father of the poor, Source of gifts that will endure Light of ev'ry human heart.

You of all consolers best, Of the soul most kindly Guest,  
Quick'ning courage do bestow.

In hard labor You are rest, In the heat You refresh best,  
And solace give in our woe.

O most blessed Light divine, Let Your radiance in us shine,  
And our inmost being fill.

Nothing good by man is thought, Nothing right by him is wrought,  
When he spurns Your gracious Will.

Cleanse our souls from sinful stain, Lave our dryness with Your rain,  
Heal our wounds and mend our way.

Bend the stubborn heart and will, Melt the frozen, warm the chill,  
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful who in You, Trust with childlike piety,  
Deign Your sevenfold gift to send.

Give them virtue's rich increase, Saving grace to die in peace,  
Give them joys that never end.

Amen.

Alleluia.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=83>



## A Benediction

*Read the remainder of “Vulnerable Faith” (pg. 145-171)*

Whether you have used this retreat guide alone or in a group, take time to reflect back on your journey. Look over any notes you might have made. In your group, share about key insights, lingering questions or anything else that stands out.

Trust that God will nurture the seeds of truth that He would have you store in your hearts and minds, so that it might come to new life and bear fruit in how you live and serve God and others.

## Prayer

May the Strength of God guide us.  
May the Power of God preserve us.  
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.  
May the Hand of God protect us.  
May the Way of God direct us.  
May the Shield of God defend us.  
May the Angels of God guard us.  
- Against the snares of the evil one.

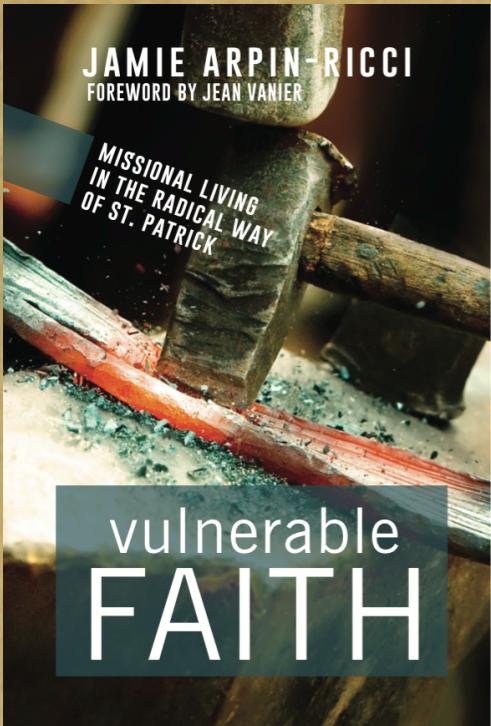
May Christ be with us!  
May Christ be before us!  
May Christ be in us,  
Christ be over all!

May Thy Grace, Lord,  
Always be ours,  
This day, O Lord, and forevermore.

Amen.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=2930>



## Praise for ‘Vulnerable Faith’

“The urgency of the invitation to each of us in Vulnerable Faith cannot be ignored. In a world of terror and hatred, of protection and retaliation, it is a bold and important reminder to Christians of the radical nature of our witness as followers of Jesus. He is the Word made flesh, the vulnerable incarnation of God's love for each and every one of us.”

—*Jean Vanier, from the foreword*

“In Vulnerable Faith the life of St. Patrick meets the spirituality of the Twelve Steps. It is a surprising, potent and challenging combination, one that Jamie Arpin-Ricci uses to profound effect in setting before us a vision of Christian community characterized by loving vulnerability, sacrificial generosity and a radical welcome of the stranger into the Shalom of God's Kingdom. An inspiring and life-changing book.”

—*Richard Beck, author Unclean and Slavery of Death*

“This book is an invitation to radical faithfulness found in willing vulnerability. Jamie Arpin- Ricci guides readers through a process of transformation, which exposes our pretense and promises new life through and beyond the cross of Christ.”

—*Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of Dead Man Walking*



# PARACLETE PRESS

[www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com)