

Silver Birch

Welcome to our reflection for Church without Walls

Here are some ideas of how to use these reflections:

Pray that God will lead your thoughts.

Sit comfortably, take a few deep breaths and relax.

Let your mind wander as you read the reflection. Write down your thoughts in a notebook. If you are busy, try and pick out something to take with you in odd moments during the day.

You may wish to memorise the Bible verse. Write it out and stick it up somewhere.

Bible Verse

*In the whole land,' declares the Lord,
'two-thirds will be struck down and perish;
yet one-third will be left in it.
This third I will put into the fire;
I will refine them like silver
and test them like gold.
They will call on my name
and I will answer them;
I will say, "They are my people,"
and they will say, "The Lord is our God."*

(Zechariah 13:8-9)

Reflection



In our garden stands a silver birch tree, a gift from my husband.

What gifts are we given this week? What gifts do you appreciate?

I love silver birch trees. They are fragile in appearance and the leaves are not dense so they let the light through. In this they are unlike so many trees that are sturdy and strong and so do not like plants growing underneath them. The silver birch has deep roots which enable the soil to be more nutritious for other plants to grow under its branches. They welcome flowers to bloom beneath them. Apparently, many insects find a home in the silver birch tree.

Are you welcoming? A smile can be a sign of welcome when out walking.

How deep are your roots?



Did you know that you can wash the trunk of the silver birch tree and make it beautifully white again? In Celtic history the silver birch was seen as a symbol of purification and renewal. Even gardeners today use a birch broom to purify their gardens!

The Bible passage above speaks about being refined like silver. Refining involves removing unwanted elements in a substance like silver.

Perhaps we can see this lockdown as an opportunity to allow God to wash us spiritually and to get rid of those old bits of bark and green algae. An opportunity to experience renewal.

Jerica Davies