

Choosing for simplicity, direction and variation

Beloved person,

Who may I be for you?

At the beginning of a Sunday Service, the one who leads the service knocks on the door. It is an expression of humility and of the desire to really connect with one another. I consciously knock first and wait ... Perhaps you want to open up, willing and able to be receptive. Actually, this knock is an audible prayer. A question of 'please, here I am, may I be with you?'

May I ...
laugh with you
and cry with you
when it is exciting, just close by
celebrate with you and dance with you
sometimes be a handkerchief for you

May I ...
learn from you
share doubts
forgive when the time is right
sometimes wonder or the opposite
Say honestly that which is

If it's alright
really look at you
and see you as you are
thank together
think together
search together for what *is*

If it's alright also
nurture together
share together
work together
love together
our faith

May I be such
a friend
or
be with you if it suits
may it be so with you and me
and
do you want this with me too?

These words are about an attitude, about how we want to be human in this world: simple, honest, unaffected, sparkling. Bending with and accepting life, which is sometimes complex, and at the same time choosing to love. Because of our belief that, in the deepest sense, everything we do has to do with God.

On Sunday 17 April, at a special Easter meeting, it sounded: together we will enter the future, in which we will surely discover what turns out to be of value for old and young, for you and for me. Because ... there is a great story going from heart to heart in every language. What is actually this great story that goes from heart to heart? And in every language, what would that be about? Is 'great' perhaps a word that could put us on the wrong track?

Choosing simplicity, direction and variation is the title of this first weekly letter we have the honour of writing to you together. Alain Clarke recently wrote about his desire to live together, among other things:

I would like to play with you as if we were twelve
Get lost together in our own stories
To get to know each other behind the prejudices
And translate our complexity into loving simplicity.

I would like to discuss the idea of what a good life is.
Breaking bread, sharing freshly prepared food
while we let our differences and our similarities play with each other.
With respect as we used to do.

I would like to belong again to one big group that consists of different groups.
After all, that is what we have always said.
What makes the Netherlands the Netherlands.
That you belong regardless ...

There are no tutorials, no manuals and it's not someone in front of the class.
But it is our inner compass on which we have to learn to rely...
It is love, love is our guide.'

For us, a footing- and guiding question is: What would love do? Wouldn't the answers then come from within, be pure *and* create space for a variety of possibilities? It takes courage and attention to discover this inner compass and to learn to trust it.

Our planet also says: may it be with more simplicity? Our emblem indicates the direction we want *and* have chosen. For our own square metres, for the world and for our work. Including new forms and new names that we will discover together. With room for diversity. That you belong, despite and thanks to your differences. Fully.

That is our view of the world. We would very much like to do this together with you. You can count on us. Shall we put our shoulders to the wheel together?

With our warm-hearted greeting for whoever reads this letter,

Gladly your sister and your brother,
Nanda Ziere and Marten van der Wal



If you would like to react to this letter, please
feel free to do so by email:
nziere@apgen.nl and
mvanderwal@apgen.nl

Sunday 24 April we would like to be together in
the community of Harderwijk.

CHOOSING FOR SIMPLICITY, DIRECTION AND VARIATION

A close-up photograph of a person's right arm and hand, wearing a black watch, pointing towards a whiteboard. The whiteboard has faint, dark sketches of a hand and a vertical line. The background is a dark, textured wall.

APOSTOLIC
SOCIETY