

Readings for Sunday, July 31, 2022

Brian McLaren

from his new book *Do I Stay Christian?*

Here is a way for me to stay Christian: I must try to understand and unearth the greatest blessings of my tradition, just as I face up to its many shortcomings. I must engage in a kind of truth and reconciliation process within my heritage. Then, simultaneously humbled by my religion's failures and inspired by its treasures, I can find my neighbors—both religious and secular—who are engaging in a parallel process in their communities. In a spirit of humility and generosity, we can confess our shortcomings and share our treasures, working together for the common good of all our fellow creatures on this beautiful, fragile planet.

An Excerpt from Psalm 146

adapted by John Philip Newell in *Celtic Treasure: Daily Scriptures and Prayers*

Happy are those whose help is in the God of all creation,
who demands justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free
and opens the eyes of the blind,
who watches over the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan,
who lifts up those who are broken
and brings down the proud and the wicked.