

Dr Robyn Wrigley-Carr

“Corporate Worship for People with Dementia: stimulating the senses and rituals”

Keynote Sponsored by:



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Corporate Worship for People with Dementia:

Sensory Stimulation & Rituals

Research grant from ARTFinc

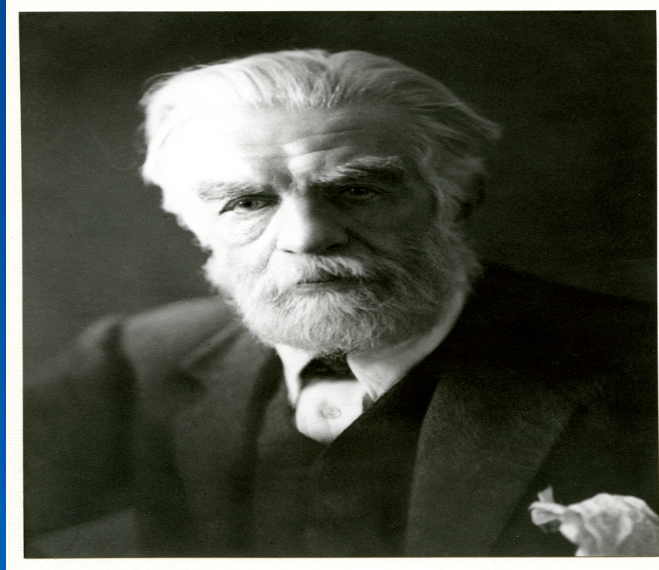
Dr Robyn Wrigley-Carr

Introduction

Janice Wrigley

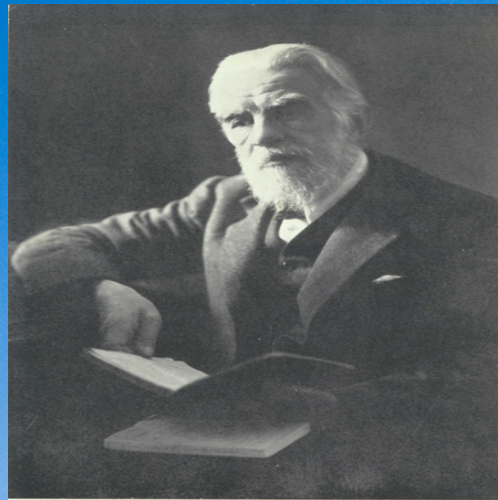
1937-2019





Theory and Theology:

Insights from Baron Friedrich von Hügel

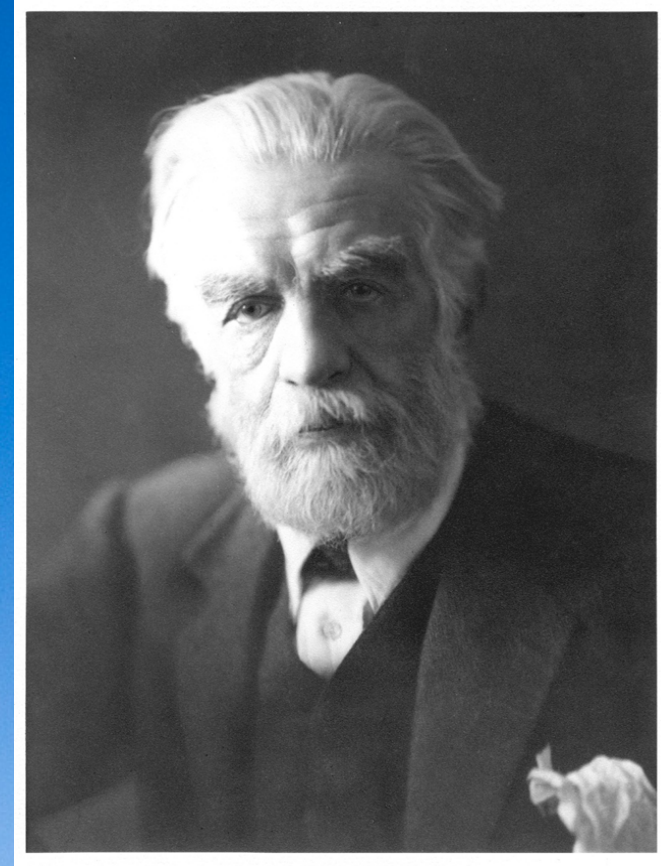


von Hugel's three Elements of Religion

Intellectual Element– rational, head knowledge about God

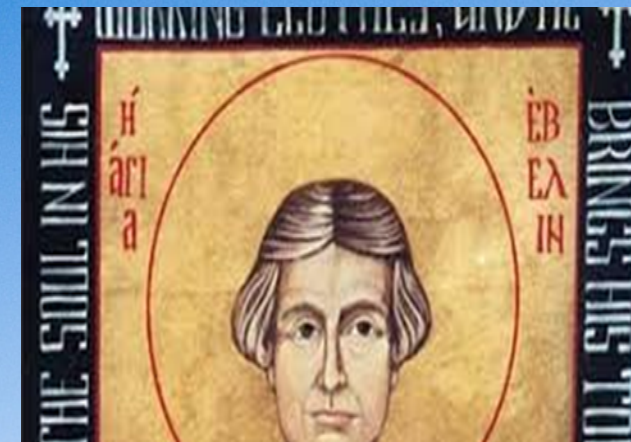
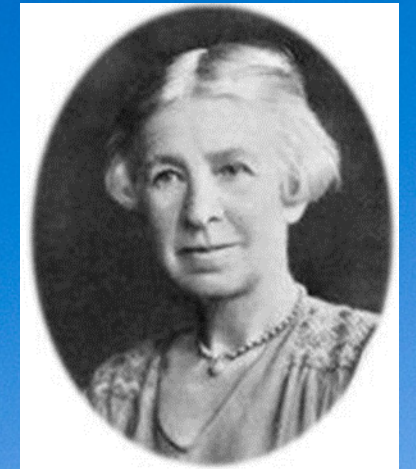
Mystical Element – personal experiences of God

Institutional Element – embodied, sacramental, communal aspects of knowing God



Balancing the three Elements

Evelyn Underhill - 'deintellectualizing' through engaging with the Institutional Element.





The three Elements as developmental stages

Childhood – the institutional element

Adolescence – the intellectual element

Adulthood – the mystical element



Responding to a diminution of the Intellectual Element

Increase the attention and nurture of the Institutional and Mystical Elements.



‘Second childhood’ and dementia

Mum as a toddler



The Institutional Element: 'Ceaseless' 'interdependence' of body and soul

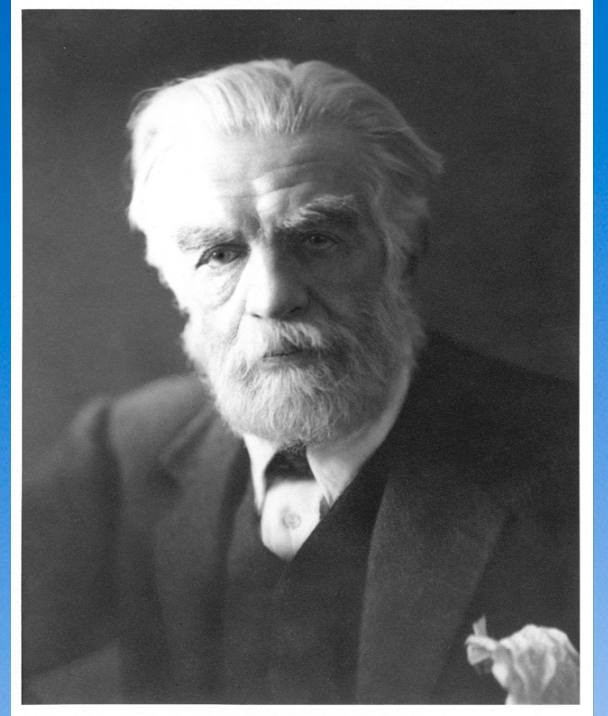
Humans as 'mixed' creatures – 'physico-spiritual' organisms

Our 'soul-and-body compoundness'



Living in 'two worlds'

Church as 'awakening souls' and developing an 'otherworldly' sense of the life beyond the grave.



5 SENSES

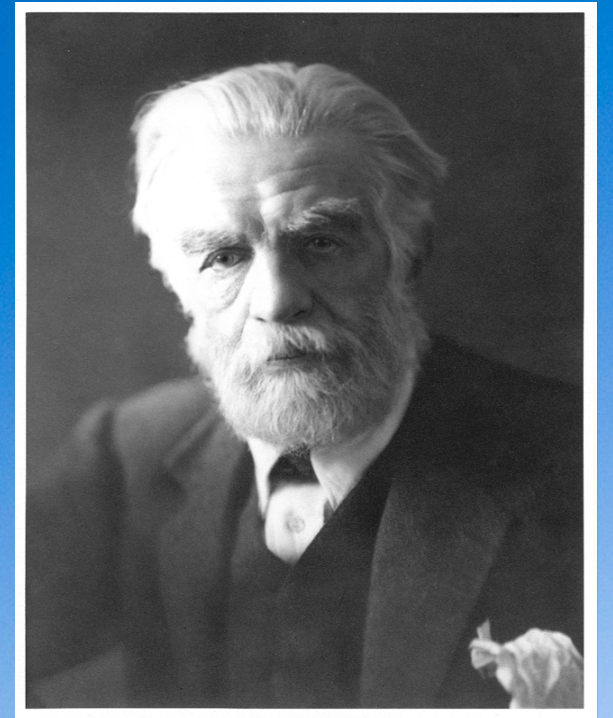


SIGHT HEAR SMELL TASTE TOUCH

‘The spirit is stimulated through the senses...’

‘stimulations of the senses and the images and memories awakened by them...’ ‘the waking up of spirit under the stimulation of sense...’

‘spiritual awakening’ of souls...





The life of the Sacraments



'I kiss my child not only because I love it;
I kiss it also in order to love it.'

The Eucharist should be the 'very centre
of a Christian's devotional life.'



Worship as communal

‘interconnection of souls’

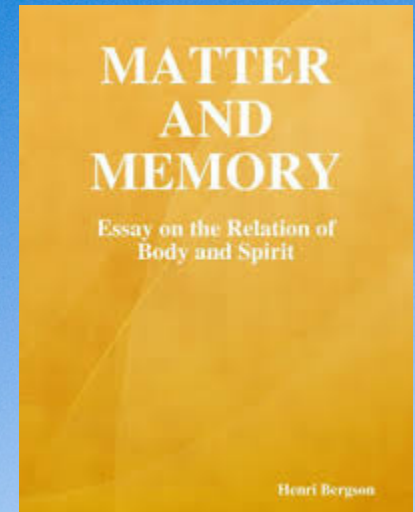
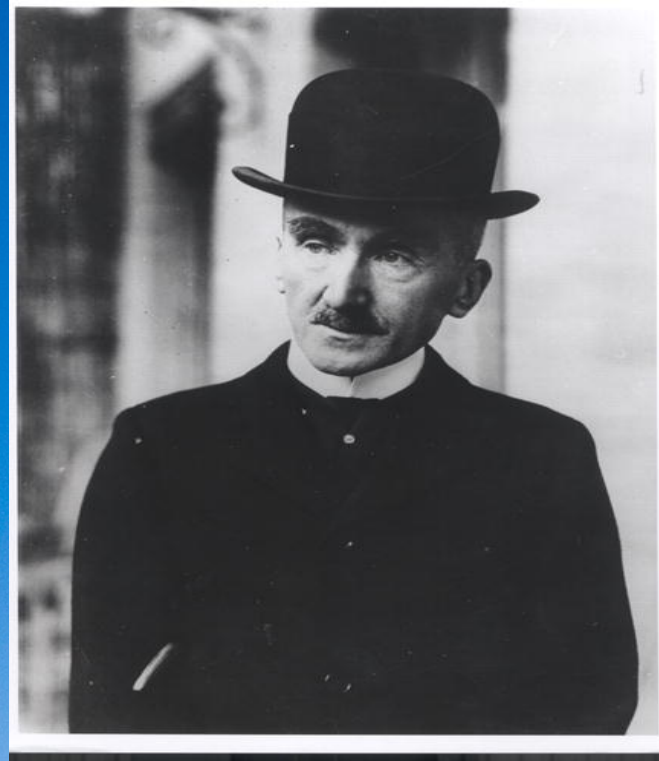
We live in the faith of other believers,
observing their vivid ‘seeing love.’



Worship and 'bodily memory'



Henri Bergson - 'habit memory'





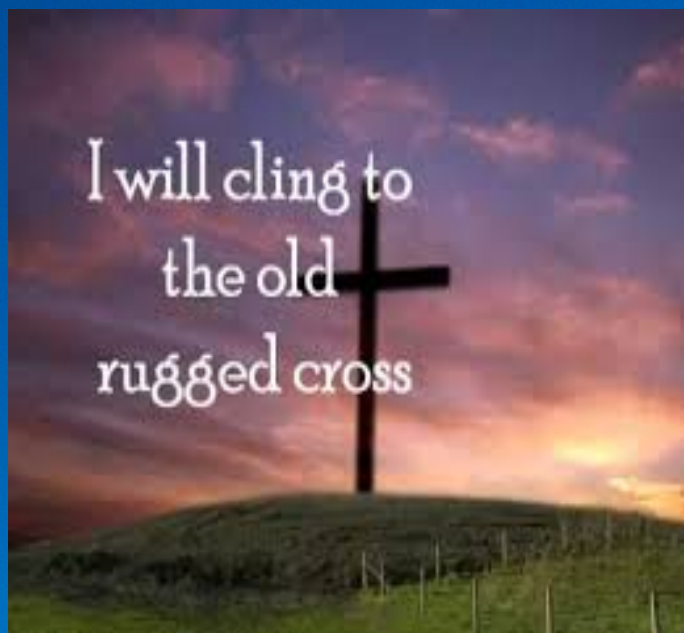
Application:
Corporate worship for people with
dementia

Enhancing worship through the sacramental

The Eucharist



Enhancing 'belonging' through touch



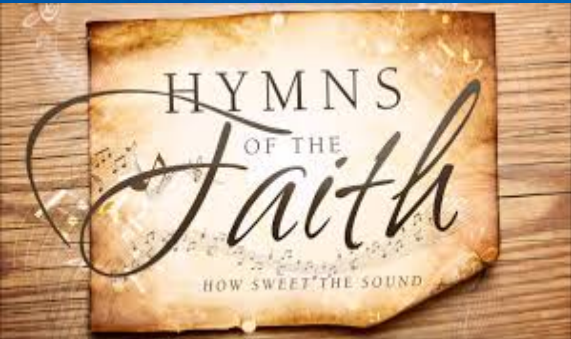
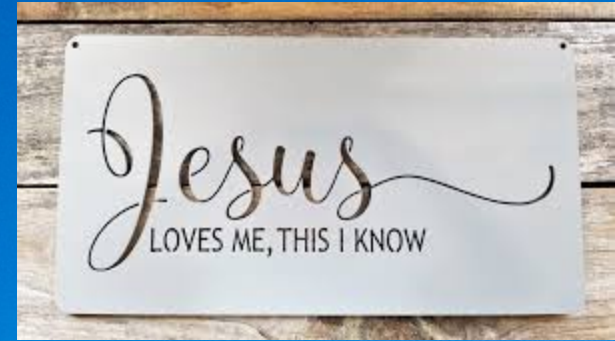
Passing the peace
Wooden hand crosses



Enhancing worship through music



Headphones



Enhancing worship through the visual



Beatitudes slideshow with commentary

‘Where are we up to in the book?’

Seating arrangements



Enhancing worship through 'habit memory'

'The Lord's Prayer'

Bowing head

Lifting hands



Enhancing worship through small groups

Hand washing – confession

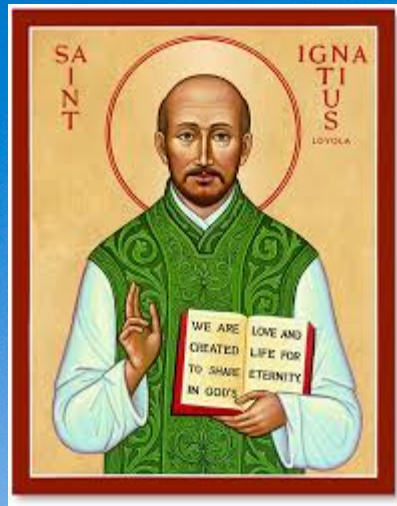
Eucharist



Enhancing worship through the imagination

Ignatian meditation

'I don't imagine Jesus. He's always with me. He's not in my imagination!'





Sensory stimulation boxes



icons



Praying hands



Prayer stones

Rosary beads





Intergenerational worship



Youth groups

Church preschools/play groups



Our spiritual formation as 'spiritual carers'

The 'prevenience' of God

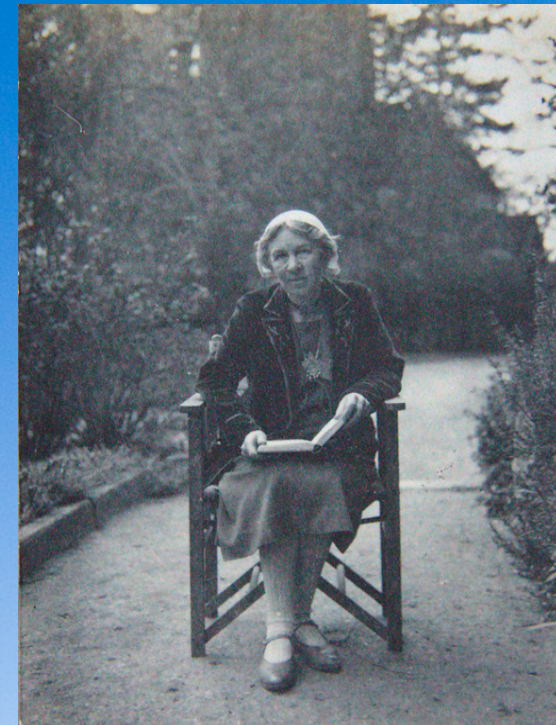
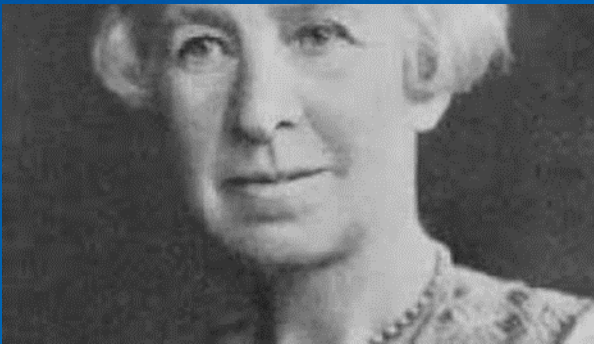
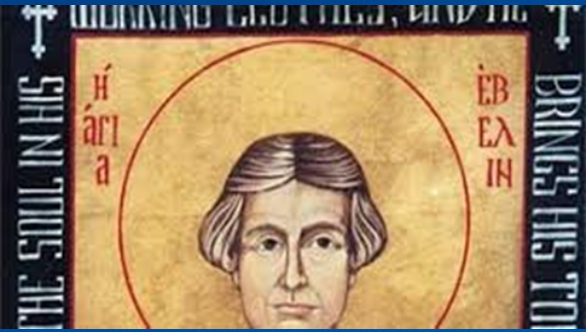
Spiritual reading

Sabbath-keeping

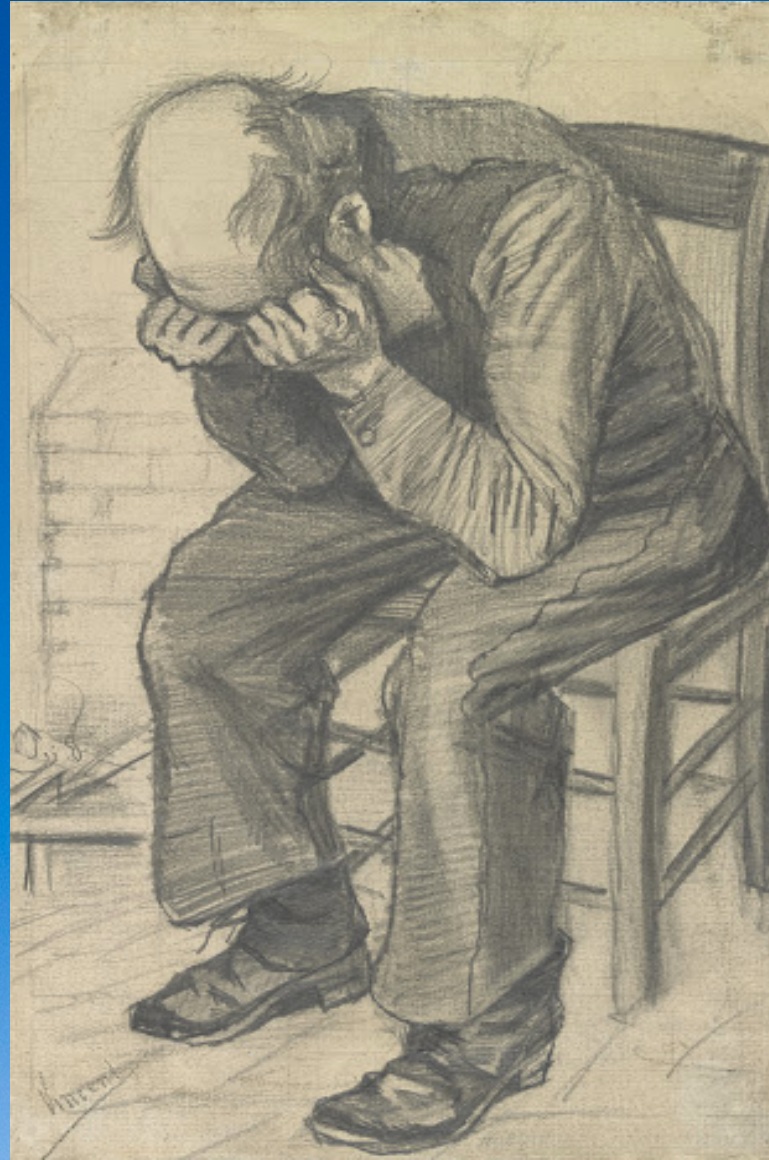
Eucharist

Retreating

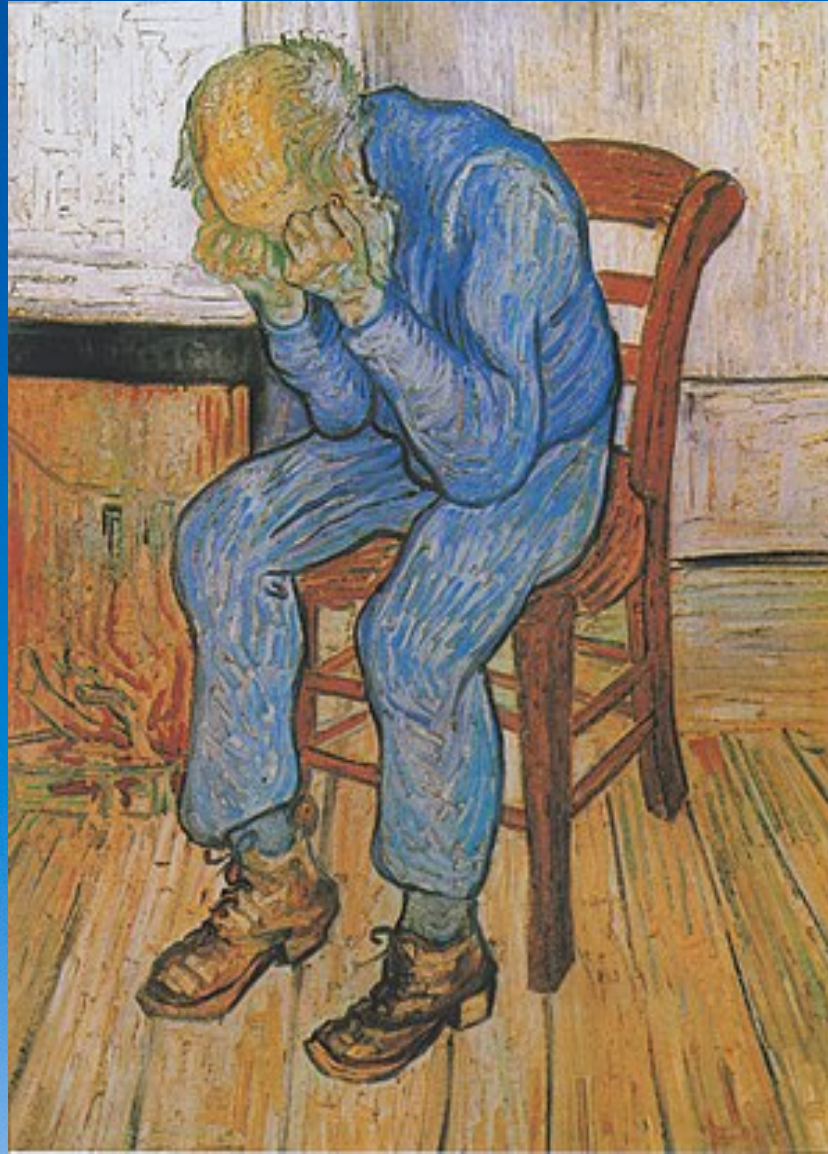
Daily prayer – 'examen of
consciousness'



'Worn Out'



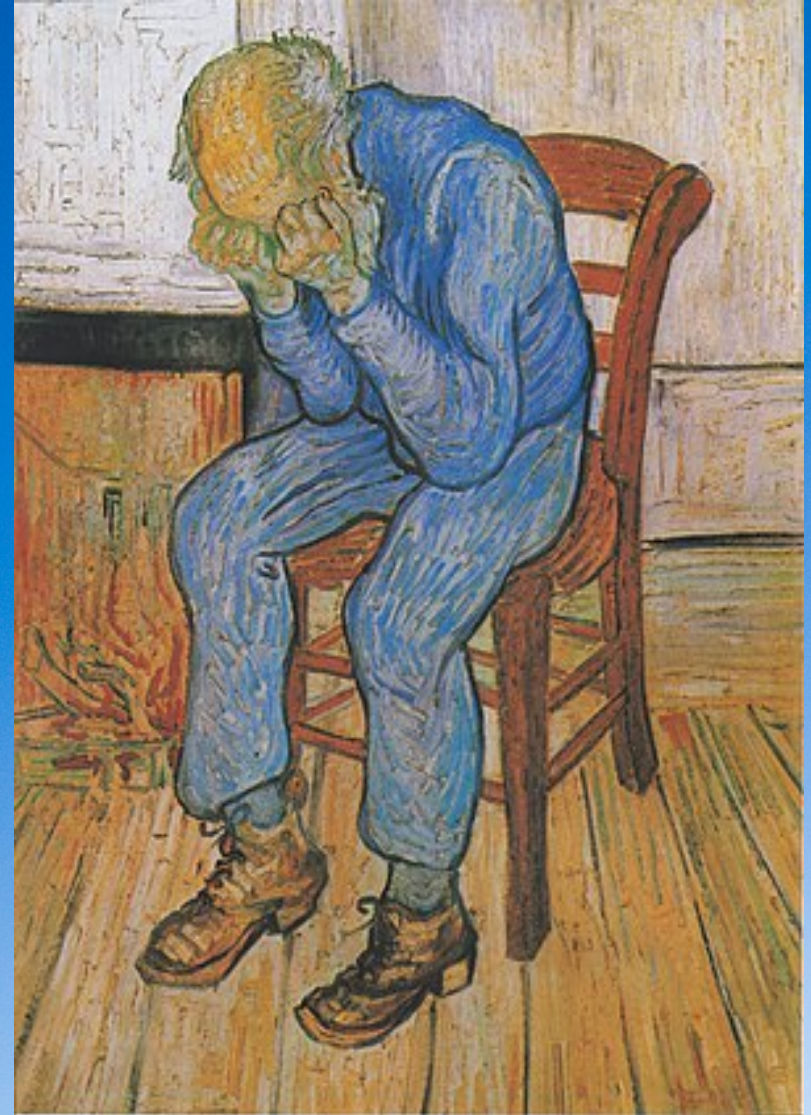
'At Eternity's Gate'



From 'Worn out' to 'At Eternity's Gate'



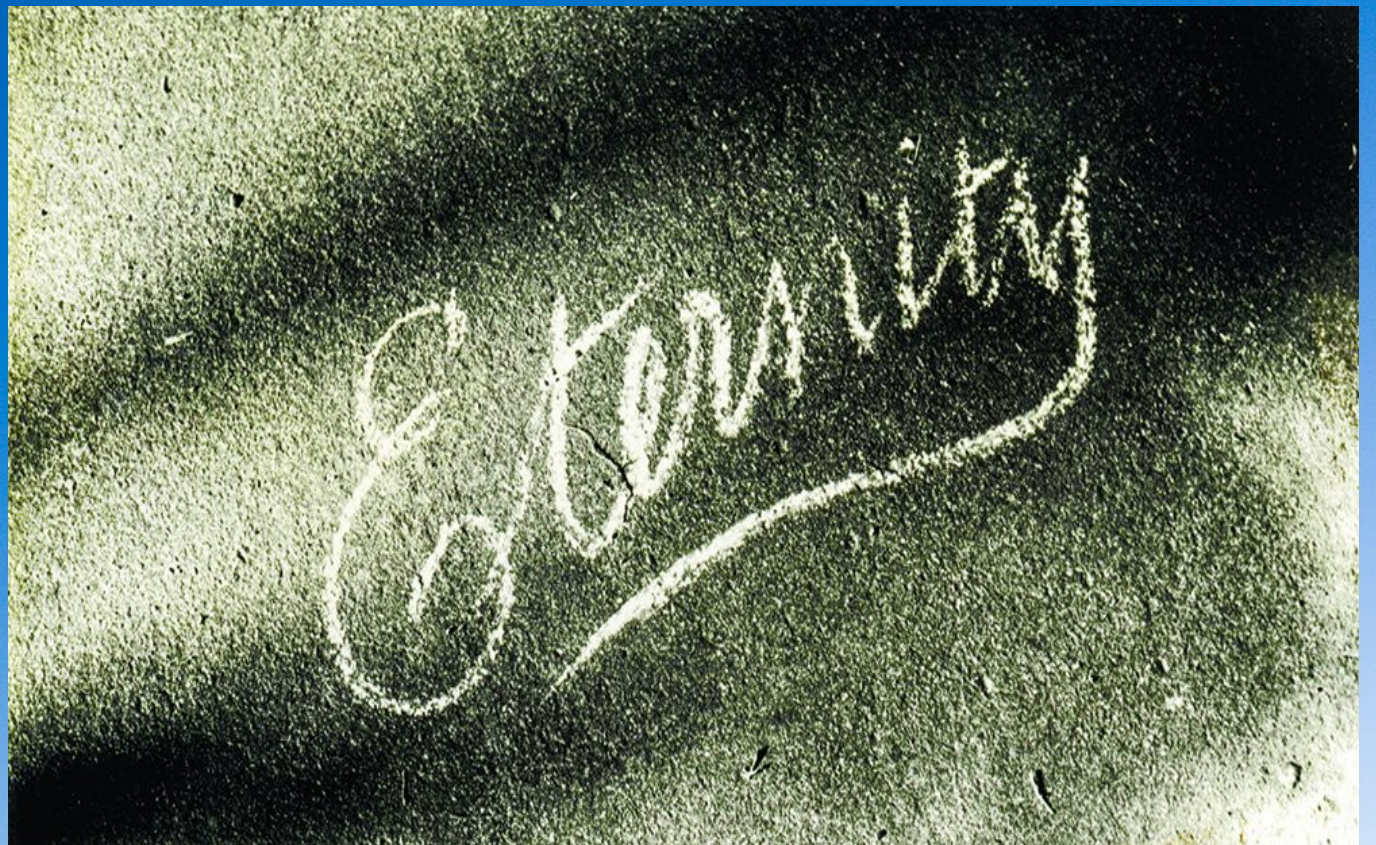
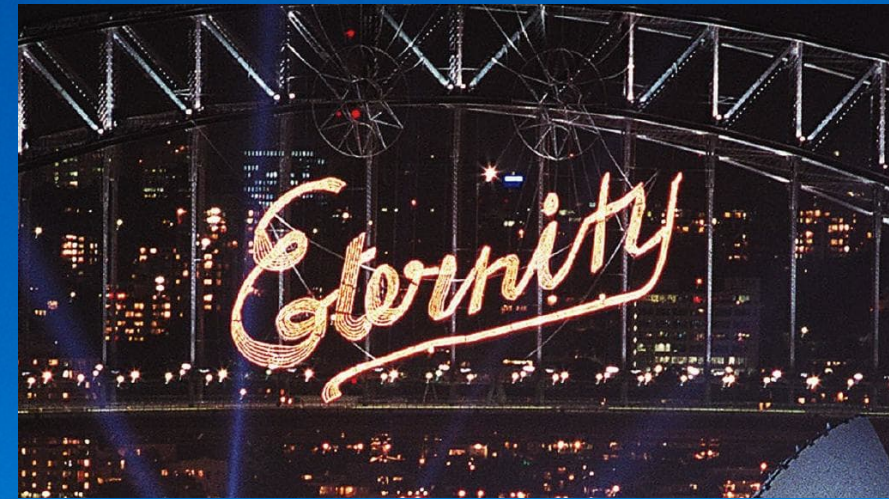
From here
to
here...





'Eternity'

Arthur Stace



'Caring matters most...'

von
Hügel

