**Contemplative Service for Wednesday,**

**April 19, 2023**



**First readings:**

And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and idolize them and serve them, but do not forget that these are things that the Holy One has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. —Deuteronomy 4:19

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of any human has imagined, that the Holy One has prepared for those who who approach in love.”

—1 Corinthians 2:19

**Music**: “Traveler’s Hymn” by Sport Ivory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDM1Sbrl13c

**Second reading**: *from* “Finding Our Way Along the Healing Path” by James Finley

These reflections mark out a path, a way of life, in which we as human beings are healed from all that hinders us from experiencing the steady, strong currents of divinity that flow on and on in the bitter-sweet alchemy of daily living.  The surprising thing is that the intimate healing spirituality brings into our lives is often hidden in the muck and mire of the very things about ourselves we wish were not true.  The secret opening through which we pass into wholeness is hidden in the center the wound we do not want to go near.  The door that grants access to boundaryless fulfillment is hidden in the unfinished business of our lives; the things we do not want to get vulnerable about, the things we tend not to sit with and listen to—the sometimes sad, sometimes tender, sometimes disarmingly simple, sometimes joyful things that make up the intimate substance of who we deep down really are and are called to be.

**Music**: “Traveler’s Chant” by Y Music (Yang Jing) performed by the Calus Ensemble

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-s3HFDEk4A

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

*May it be Your will, G‑d, our G‑d and the G‑d of our ancestors,*

*that You should lead us in peace and direct our steps in peace,*

*and guide us in peace, and support us in peace,*

*and cause us to reach our destination in life, joy, and peace.*

*Save us from every enemy and ambush,*

*and from all kinds of obstacles that rage and come to the world.*

*May You confer blessing upon the work of our hands*

*and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us,*

*and bestow upon us abundant kindness and hearken to the voice of our prayer,*

*for You hear the prayers of all. Blessed are You G‑d, who hearkens to prayer.*

*—Jewish prayer for travelers*

**Communal Blessing**

Patient God, there are days when we put one foot in front of another, and that is enough. If today is such a day, help us to trust that you guide our steps. Our explorations, whether we wish to travel or wish to stay at home, take us into the unknown. You are at home everywhere, and we hope to abide with you. Amen.

**Music**: “The Point of Arrival,” by Carrie Newcomer

<https://www.google.com/search?q=carrie+newcomer%2C+arrival%2C+youtube&client=firefox-b-1-d&sxsrf=APwXEdefjp9Lh3rwFIG5XKTj6BE1joO-2g%3A1681853270308&ei=Vgs_ZNOaEr--kPIPqf-ioA4&ved=0ahUKEwjTnfbVr7T-AhU_H0QIHam_COQQ4dUDCA8&uact=5&oq=carrie+newcomer%2C+arrival%2C+youtube&gs_lcp=Cgxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAQAzIFCCEQoAEyBQghEKABMgUIIRCgATIFCCEQoAEyCAghEBYQHhAdMggIIRAWEB4QHToKCAAQRxDWBBCwAzoECCMQJzoICAAQigUQkQI6CgguEIoFENQCEEM6CAgAEIAEELEDOg4ILhCABBCxAxDHARDRAzoRCC4QgAQQsQMQgwEQxwEQ0QM6BwgAEIoFEEM6BwguEIoFEEM6CAgAEIAEEMkDOggIABCKBRCSAzoRCC4QgwEQrwEQxwEQsQMQgAQ6CgguEIoFELEDEEM6CAguEIoFEJECOggILhCABBCxAzoLCC4QgAQQxwEQrwE6CwguEIAEELEDEIMBOgUILhCABDoFCAAQgAQ6CwgAEIAEELEDEIMBOgoIABCABBAUEIcCOgYIABAWEB5KBAhBGABQ9ANY7j5ghkBoAXABeAGAAcEBiAHJHJIBBTEwLjIzmAEAoAEByAEIwAEB&sclient=gws-wiz-serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:ba0e4aba,vid:lxYblKolBg0>

*May you move in peace and hope, finding your way.*