**Contemplative Service for Wednesday,**

**December 20, 2023**

*Fourth Week of Advent: Love*



*“Compassion” by Robert Williams*

**First reading**: 1 Corinthians 14: 16

Let all that you do be done in love.

**Music:** “Awakening the Heart of Compassion” by Brother Phap Linh

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YarhXTDs8Z4

**Second reading**: from Hadewjich of Antwerp, 13th Century

The madness of love  
Is a blessed fate;  
And if we understood this  
We would seek no other:  
It brings into unity  
What was divided,  
And this is the truth:  
Bitterness it makes sweet,  
It makes the stranger a neighbor,  
And what was lowly it raises on high.

**Music**: “Sacred Love” by Sviridov, performed by Intrada Moscow

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9bWVnNon4g

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

*Dear God, please reveal to us  
your sublime beauty  
that is everywhere, everywhere, everywhere  
so that we will never again  
feel frightened.* *My divine love, my love,  
Please let us touch  
your face.*

- St. Francis of Assisi

**Communal Blessing**

Loving One, we pray that your love will show us Love itself, as perfection. And further, that perfection is not static or completed, but full and responsive.

Yours is the love that elicits more love.

Yours is the love that makes our limited, self-interested love radiate beyond its own error and self-interest.

We do not yet know how fully love has dawned in our lives. It will take a birth, but not just the birth of a disenfranchised baby in a rural stable. Love’s living ardor will be born through us, with us, for us over and over. Amen.

**Music**: “Fall Fearless Into Love” by Darlene Franz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9bWVnNon4g>

*A gift of love to you.*

*May you be warmed and animated in Love’s fire.*