**Contemplative Service for Wednesday,**

**February 15, 2023**



[*If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.*](https://www.azquotes.com/quote/185316)

*—*[*Nelson Mandela*](https://www.azquotes.com/author/9365-Nelson_Mandela)

**First reading:** Romans 12:3-5

By the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has given. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same skills and gifts, so we, though many, are one body in faith, and individually members one of another.

**Music:** “Amazing Grace”performed by theCalvin Prison Initiative Choir

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvleDIIxL9k

**Second reading**: 11 Questions from the “Civic Love” project which proposes that bringing together two people and having them each respond to 36 questions will create a genuine bond. Perhaps your”contemplative” time this week can include a conversation using these.

1. What would constitute a “perfect” day for you?

2. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?

3. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

4. If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?

5. Is there something that you’ve dreamed of doing for a long time? Why haven’t you done it?

6. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?

7. What do you value most in a friendship?

8. What is your most treasured memory?

9. What does friendship mean to you?

10. When did you last cry in front of another person? By yourself?

11. What, if anything, is too serious to be joked about?

Final task / suggestion: Stare into each other’s eyes for four minutes.

**Music**: “Children, Go Where I Send Thee” performed by the Spellman College Glee Club

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sMT69Adeog

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

*And you have all been formed into one choir, to sing God’s song together and praise the Holy One with one voice, so that when God hears you God may realize from what you have done so well that you are truly part of the body of faith.*

St Ignatius of Antioch, 35-108 AD

**Communal Blessing**:

God of many presences and faces,

Our love is always a togetherness. We are reconciliation, but not apology. For as we move in your current, we have no shame. Our togetherness arises, laughter or sobbing from deep within, the stretch of our bodies in surprise as we find out what we are continuous with each other. How a hand lifts. How a toe dislodges the rock that bruises a heel. How the crook of an arm shelters. We are all this. We are a self bigger than ourselves, and we are holy. Your presence croons in us and makes us one. We thank you. Amen.

**Music**: “Sing Gently” by Eric Whitacre, performed by 17,572 vocalist

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InULYfJHKI0