**Contemplative Service for Wednesday**

**October 11, 2023**



*Painting by Henri Matisse*

**First reading**: from Dorothy Day

We know that we constantly err through lack of charity and

prayer, but with confidence in God we can start each morning

anew with the words of the Psalmist, “Now I have begun.”

So pray for us that we have the love and joy in service that

go with all beginnings.

**Music**: “Stones Start Spinning” by David Darling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2shq7HrN3ok>

**Second reading**: “Welcoming Blessing” by Jan Richardson

When you are lost  
in your own life.

When the landscape  
you have known  
falls away.

When your familiar path  
becomes foreign  
and you find yourself  
a stranger  
in the story you had held  
most dear.

Then let yourself  
be lost.  
Let yourself leave  
for a place  
whose contours  
you do not already know,  
whose cadences  
you have not learned  
by heart.  
Let yourself land  
on a threshold  
that mirrors the mystery  
of your own  
bewildered soul.

It will come  
as a surprise,  
what arrives  
to welcome you  
through the door,  
making a place for you  
at the table  
and calling you  
by your name.

Let what comes,  
come.

Let the glass  
be filled.  
Let the light  
be tended.  
Let the hands  
lay before you  
what will meet you  
in your hunger.

Let the laughter.  
Let the sweetness  
that enters  
the sorrow.  
Let the solace  
that comes  
as sustenance  
and sudden, unbidden  
grace.

For what comes,  
offer gladness.  
For what greets you  
with kindly welcome,  
offer thanks.  
Offer blessing  
for those  
who gathered you in  
and will not  
be forgotten—

those who,  
when you were  
a stranger,  
made a place for you  
at the table  
and called you  
by your name.

**Music**: “Sunshine Canyon” by David Darling and Michael Jones

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0t0MoMof\_aE

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

*We awaken in Christ's body  
As Christ awakens our bodies,  
And my poor hand is Christ, He enters  
My foot, and is infinitely me.  
I move my hand, and wonderfully  
My hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him  
(for God is indivisibly  
Whole, seamless in His Godhood).  
I move my foot, and at once  
He appears like a flash of lightning.  
Do my words seem blasphemous? Then  
Open your heart to Him  
And let yourself receive the one  
Who is opening to you so deeply.  
For if we genuinely love Him,  
We wake up inside Christ's body  
Where all our body, all over,  
every most hidden part of it,  
is realized in joy as Him,  
and He makes us, utterly, real,  
and everything that is hurt, everything  
that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,  
maimed, ugly, irreparably  
damaged, is in Him transformed  
and recognized as whole, as lovely,**and radiant in His light  
he awakens as the Beloved in every last part of our body.*- Symeon the New Theologian

**Communal Blessing**

Open eyes, open hands, open throat, open heart—even open mouth!

We open to you, All Holiness, for as we receive you, we become utterly real.

We are both host and guest. You are the breath, the very taste and scent of welcome.

Amen.

**Music**: “Rainfall” by David Darling and Michael Jones

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

*Blessings of awakening and welcome to the Spirit.*