**Contemplative Service for Wednesday,**

**July 26, 2023**



*Ancient Egyptian sculpture*

**First reading**: Proverbs 1: 2-7

For learning about wisdom and instruction,  
    for understanding words of insight,  
or gaining instruction in wise dealing,  
    righteousness, justice, and equity;  
to teach shrewdness to the simple,  
    knowledge and prudence to the young—  
let the wise, too, hear and gain in learning  
    and the discerning acquire skill,  
to understand a proverb and a figure,  
    the words of the wise and their riddles.

Respect for the Holy One is the beginning of wisdom.

**Music**: “My Mouth Will Speak Wisdom,” performed by Capella Romana

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2P5qZi2K9YM

**Second reading:** “Old Manuscript” by Alfred Kreymborg

The sky  
is that beautiful old parchment  
in which the sun  
and the moon  
keep their diary.  
To read it all,  
one must be a linguist  
more learned than Father Wisdom;  
and a visionary  
more clairvoyant than Mother Dream.  
But to feel it,  
one must be an apostle:  
one who is more than intimate  
in having been, always,  
the only confidant –  
like the earth  
or the sea.

**Music:** “The Wisdom Mantra” performed by Lama Surya Das and Steven Halpern

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=youtube.com%2C+wisdom+chants#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:42c66532,vid:kQhoWUjDYzA>

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

*We pray: Remove from us all self-deception; give us neither poverty nor riches; feed us only according to our daily need. Otherwise, we may be full, and arrogant and say "Who is the God after all?" or we shall be poor and steal in desperation. Keep us humble and mindful of your provision and of your mercy. You are the Giver of life and of all good things. All we have is yours. Amen.*

*--Adapted from Proverbs 30:8-9*

**Communal Blessing**

Wisdom, we wait for you in your silence. In the unexpected shift that feels somehow completely natural. In your seriousness as in your irreverence. We lean on you, Wisdom, and you pour hardiness over us as a baptism. We hear your singing, distant and then near, as the night is anointed with dawn. Amen.

**Music**: “Chant to the Holy Angels,” by Hildegard of Bingen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjIAXI2xkEM>

*Go in peace. Walk in wisdom and compassion.*