**Contemplative Service for November 15, 2023**



*Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead. Isaiah 26:19*

**Reading:** Genesis 2:7

Then the Divine One formed the human of dust from the ground and breathed into the human’s nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living creature.

**Music**: “Holy as the Day is Spent,” by Carrie Newcomer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxzO8DyY9e8&list=OLAK5uy\_mqoddG-xfMN03bsQohNXqbHNMajC-Gdjk&index=32

**Reading**: “Dusting” by Marilyn Nelson

Thank you for these tiny  
particles of ocean salt,  
pearl-necklace viruses,  
winged protozoans:  
for the infinite,  
intricate shapes  
of submicroscopic  
living things.

For algae spores  
and fungus spores,  
bonded by vital  
mutual genetic cooperation,  
spreading their  
inseparable lives  
from equator to pole.

My hand, my arm,  
make sweeping circles.  
Dust climbs the ladder of light.  
For this infernal, endless chore,  
for these eternal seeds of rain:  
Thank you. For dust.

**Music**: “Sanctuary,” by Carrie Newcomer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjOioWTVAl4

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

*You are holy, only God,  
and your acts are wonderful.  
You are strong.  
...  
You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, living and true.  
You are love. You are wisdom.  
You are humility. You are endurance.  
You are rest. You are peace.  
You are joy and gladness.  
You are justice and moderation.  
You are all our riches, and You suffice for us.  
You are beauty.  
You are gentleness.  
You are our protector.  
You are our courage. You are our haven and our hope.  
You are our faith, our great consolation.  
You are our continuous life. Amen.*

*from St. Francis of Assisi’s Prayer, given to Brother Leo*

**Communal Blessing**

Beautiful God, so fine that you suffuse the air around us, so richly dispersed your presence tints the daylight. We breathe you. We catch the scent of you on our very skin. This is your realm: as grand as an ocean, and as fine as pollen on a breeze. We give thanks for all your manifestations. If you are large, let us increase. If you are infinitely small, let us be dust lifted on your breath. We enter into the currents of you and you make us buoyant. Here, in the unforeseen smallness of you, we are transformed, we are lofted upward, dissipating until we transcend ourselves. Amen.

**Music**: “Lean into the Light,” by Carrie Newcomer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxAUmNjWaIs&list=OLAK5uy\_mqoddG-xfMN03bsQohNXqbHNMajC-Gdjk

*Gratitude for the day, for all of you, and for the way our joys and appreciations increase in the sharing. Go in peace and love.*