

## To Ponder:

### If Darwin Prayed

*By Bruce Sanguin*

After his transfiguration, Jesus “sets his face towards Jerusalem.” This is code for Jesus’ choice to face his inevitable suffering and death. In Lent, we follow Jesus, knowing the outcome. This journey takes us into the heart of the mystery of suffering. Jesus continually reprimands the disciples for their refusal to accept that he must suffer and die. He tells them that they have their minds set on human things, not on divine realities. What does he mean?

Much of life involves ordeals — periods of intense suffering that are necessary to give birth to a new order, both within and without. It involves genuine suffering in the service of greater personal freedom and power, to align the self with divine reality.

We are often asked what we intend to “give up” for Lent. While the ritual can be trivialized, at its core, it is a powerful spiritual practice. When we release our attachment to all that we believe is essential to our survival, we may discover that, in truth, they are addictions that are holding us captive, preventing our spiritual evolution, and stifling our capacity to proclaim and enact God’s kin(g)dom. These addictions to substances, relationships, and even the dominant stories we tell ourselves about who we are — represent our neurotic suffering. Our genuine suffering involves coming off the addictions so that we can discover our essential spiritual identity: one with all of creation, one with Spirit, and called to use our precious life energy — energy that was being diverted to feed our addiction — in the service of abundant life and the spiritual evolution of our species.

The good news is that, as evolutionary creatures, we have the benefit of 13.7 billion years of resilience and the capacity to adapt to changing life conditions. Life keeps emerging out of cosmological and planetary cataclysms, such as supernovas, mass extinctions and natural disasters. An ability to come through what the writer of Revelation calls “the great ordeal” is built into the fabric of our evolutionary soul.

## Reading:

### Light Transfusion

*By Bruce Sanguin*

#### **O Shining One,**

You are the flame burning within,  
the beacon on the horizon,  
the radiance in all creation,  
the bright idea apprehending us,  
the sparkling in the eyes of our loved ones,  
the uncreated light that is lighting all.

**Transfigure us,** this very day,  
as we open into the radiance of the Christ  
in each other, in song, in word, and witness.  
May this be the day of our enlightenment,  
when we see with clarity  
the sacred life we are called to manifest.

**Remake us** as sacraments of the Holy,  
that we might embrace our calling:  
to see with new eyes,  
reach out with gentle hands,  
imagine with transformed minds,  
be still with hallowed presence,  
and be filled with grateful prayers.  
In the name of the Transfigured One, we pray, Amen.

### Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

## **Song:**

**Joy Follows Suffering** by Michael W. Smith  
Instrumental

*Creator of all that grows from seed,  
Light of all who are in darkness  
Awaken me, draw me free  
To the miracle of growth  
—roots, leaves, blossoms—  
To the possibilities of life in you  
—Soul, body, spirit—  
So that I may praise you  
In my work, and rest, and play.*

-Margaret Rose Realy

## **Thank You For Joining Us!**

Your Prayer Leader

Syndie Eardly **02/09/16**

Centering Space  
14812 Lake Ave | Lakewood  
[www.centeringspace.org](http://www.centeringspace.org)  
216.228.7451  
[centeringspace@srsfcharity.org](mailto:centeringspace@srsfcharity.org)

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See with **CLARITY**  
the sacred **LIFE**



we are called to **MANIFEST**



Our prayer is characterized by silence  
**Be still and know that I am God!**

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.  
God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.