

I am fairly certain the best movie I have ever seen was *Cinema Paradiso*. It is a beautiful film about a young boy and an older man and their life long relationship. The man is a patient and tender teacher for the young boy as he is taught the skills of being a movie theater projectionist. What I remember from the story is the steady strength the boy gets from the man. The love is constant and unconditional; as God's love is for us. No matter what challenges they face in the years of friendship they are faithful to one another. As the boy grows up and leaves for college and career, and then finally a significant move, the deep connection they have with each other never falters. They lose touch and yet they never really do.

And from the words of Dorothy Day: "Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up. If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other's faults and burdens. If we love enough, we are going to light that fire in the hearts of others. And it is the love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other. No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem too much."

Music Cinema Paradiso "Tema finale" (final theme)

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

Betsy Nero
1-24-2016

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Give thanks to the Beloved

Photo by Rob Blair



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.

Ponderings:

“When it’s over, I want to say: all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it is over, I don’t want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.
I don’t want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.

I don’t want to end up simply having visited this world.”

“Instructions for living a life.
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.”

“to live in this world
you must be able
to do three things
to love what is mortal;
to hold it
against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go”

Mary Oliver

“Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up. If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other’s faults and burdens. If we love enough, we are going to light that fire in the hearts of others. And it is the love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other. No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem too much.”

Dorothy Day

Reading: *Psalm 9* *Nan Merrill* *Psalms for Praying*

Give thanks to the Beloved
with your whole heart;
tell the story of Love’s way;
Be glad and dance with joy;
Sing praises to the Name above
all names,
as illusions are dispelled,
as they fade away before
Love’s face.

For You, O Beloved, are ever-present,
ready to enter open hearts.

Sing praises to the One, who is Love,
who dwells in your heart!
Tell everyone of Love’s wonder-filled deeds!
For those who know compassion
will remember those in need.

Arise, O Love! Have your way with us;
let the nations bow before You
and ask forgiveness!

Let your healing Light stream forth,
O Love,

Let the nations commit themselves to your Plan!

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...