

Song

The Face of Love

By Jewel

Until tonight, my heart was just half full
I'd never known the fruit which fed the soul
But now I see what may put to rest my longing

*For I have seen, the face of love
The grace of God, the face of love*

In silence I feared my heart
Would remain words unheard
Inside a separate mess of skin
But now I know that the skin just veils the soul

*For I have seen, the face of love
The grace of God, the face of love*

So take my hand and knowing with it I also give my heart
Wanting to never be separate again
Let eternity begin
If you were flame, I'd allow myself to be consumed completely
Were you wind I'd wish you to pass through me
But now I know that the skin just veils the soul

*For I have seen, the face of love
The grace of God, the face of love*

Prayer Leader:

Syndie Eardly
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Jesus: The Architect of our Restoration



Photo by Olenka Sergienko from Pexels



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.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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To Ponder

Jesus: The Architect of Our Restoration

by Syndie Eardly

As we approach Christmas, we contemplate the meaning of Jesus birth and life. He said he came, *“to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to let the oppressed go free.”*

All of these things are acts of restoration. We are born free, but life intervenes, and we find ourselves held captive by ambition or greed, blinded by false teachings, oppressed by our own fears.

If Jesus came to end all of that, what is the intrinsic nature of this restoration? It is, of course, to restore relationship with God. Now this is important: you can never NOT be in relationship with God. So what Jesus came to do is to WAKE US UP to the relationship that already exists. He came to set us free from the illusion of separateness. He came to reveal that the only true oppression is our misguided belief in limitation, lack or separateness.

Jesus called us to radical kind of faith in the unfolding of our lives. He calls us to believe that whatever happens is OK. Does stuff happen that is distressing? Absolutely. But we are called to rise above the illusion that these things are not OK and move forward in complete trust and faith that — as Rainer Maria Rilke said, *“something is happening to you, that life has not forgotten you, that it holds you in its hand and will not let you fall.”*

Jesus challenges us to stay focused on the Holy Calling within each of us to be God’s love and light in the world, in whatever form that might take, whether artist or caretaker, friend or teacher. In each Holy Encounter, we are called to be the truest expression of love.

Reading

John 1: 4 – 17

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

...

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

