

Song of Thanksgiving Darryl Ducote

Love that's freely given
wants to freely be received
All the love you've poured on us
can hardly be believed
And all that we can offer you is thanks
All that we can offer you is thanks

Creation tells a story
that began so long ago
Of love that longed to share it's life
In hope that love would grow
The sun repeats each morning
The story is retold
And just in love's retelling
New chapters yet unfold

Your care called out a people
Your love made them your own
You freed their hearts and calmed their fears
And finally brought them home
It's when our trials are ended
We most easily forget
But your friendship never ceases
Your love shows no regret.

Prayer Leader:

Mary Beth Marquard, HM
2 / 13 / 24

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Create a Space for Love



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.

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An Interfaith Ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

To Ponder: Pat Gohn, *Living Faith*

It may seem more sacrificial, especially for children, to have Ash Wednesday, the day of fasting and penitence, falling on Valentine's day in the U.S. We grown-ups might also struggle just a bit with the coincidence. But maybe if we reverse it, reminding ourselves that this day of love falls on Ash Wednesday, we can start Lent with an apt reminder that truly, love is our compass to chart our course through Lent. After all, the prophet Joel recounts that it is the God of Love who desires our whole hearts. Even now, the Gracious and Merciful One is inviting our nearness, our closeness.

Repentance is our turning away from sin and a turning to God. It is a deepening of love that we are called to know while in relationship with this gracious One. May we follow the Heart of Love this Lent with renewed dedication.



Reading: Macrina Wiederker, *Abide: Keeping Vigil with the Word of God*

Oh Welcoming One, You are my guesthouse,
my hermitage, my dwelling place.
Your hospitable spirit frees me
from my nagging fears of not being accepted.
In my deepest moments of estrangement
from myself and others
I discover my home in you.
There is no lock on your door.
You are all openness.
Take the lock off the door of my heart.
I long to be a space of love for everyone.
I yearn to be a place where all can be at peace
and feel at home.
May I have a welcoming heart.
Amen.

Sharing. . .
a word...
a phrase...
a reflection...

Reminders:

Come on time or **better yet, COME EARLY**

Honor the silence

Share briefly from personal experience

Listen to each other

Discussion (crosstalk) is for after the hour of prayer