

Love That's Freely Given by Darryl Ducote

Love that's freely given
wants to be freely be received.
All the love you 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

1 / 13 / 2026

Sacred Creation



Mary Southard csj



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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To Ponder: Mary Beth Marquard
A Reflection

There are two authors, Wendell Berry 91 years old and Thomas Berry deceased in 2009 at age 94, who are not related, but have both spoken profoundly on the sacredness of all creation, including humans who are not the masters, but an integral part of all creation. Both men emphasize the importance of humans living in harmony with the rest of God's creation. Humans have a duty, a responsibility, to care for each other and the Earth. We are indelibly connected. Both Wendell and Thomas strongly encourage us to move beyond mere conservation to a deeper, spiritual and practical care for the Earth.

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

Reading: Kascha Sanor
A Prayer for Creation *adapted*

As we journey through the Season of Creation,
We move in praise of You
And in awe of all that You have created.
God, give us the strength we need
To be Your pilgrim people on Earth,
Carrying always the Good News
Of Hope and uniting Love.

Be our companion along the way.
Open our hearts and guide each encounter.
Help us to remember that this pilgrimage
Is just one step on our journey toward You.
May we walk with reverence.
May we listen with humility.
May we respond with love.

Sharing. . .

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...