March 30 2025 Third Sunday of Lent Compassion: The Tears of Things

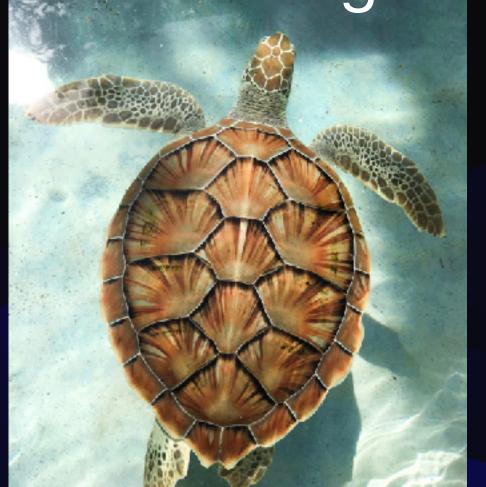
"Prophets and mystics recognize what most of us do not—
that all things have tears
and all things deserve tears."

Rohr, Richard. The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the



unceded land of the Huron-Wendat, Anishaanabe and the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit peoples.

We honor the interconnectedness of all beings, including the cosmos, Earth, Indigenous Peoples, our ancestors, and all of creation.

We are grateful to all who came before us as caretakers of our planet. We regret and apologize for any injustices we have caused; we are actively working to address and correct them.

We recognize, as stewards of the Earth, our responsibility to care for the land, gifts, and relationships that sustain us.

We commit to approaching every interaction with reverence, reciprocity, harmony, and compassion. In healing ourselves we heal the world! (Adapted from Charter of Compassion)

Greeting:

We turn to you, Great Love, who goes to those with tears in their eyes, and we pray.

Womb of Love, take our hearts. Shape them with the wide compassion of your heart until we, too, cannot rest as long as there are tears of suffering anywhere on this planet.

Rupp, Joyce. Prayers of Boundless Compassion

Photo by Alexander Grey on Unsplash

Gathering Hymn: Christ Has No Body

Refrain:

Christ has no body now but yours No hands, but yours Here on this earth yours is the work, To serve with the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world, No hands but yours to soothe all its suff'ring, No touch but yours to bind the broken Hope of the people of God.



Refrain
Photo by Jem Sahagun on Unsplash

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see, To find the lost, To gaze with compassion No eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

Refrain:

Christ has no body now but yours
No hands, but yours
Here on this earth yours is the work,
To serve with the joy of compassion



No feet but yours to journey with the poor to walk this world with mercy and justice. Yours are the steps to build a lasting Peace for the children of God.

Refrain:

Christ has no body now but yours
No hands, but yours
Here on this earth yours is the work,
To serve with the joy of compassion.

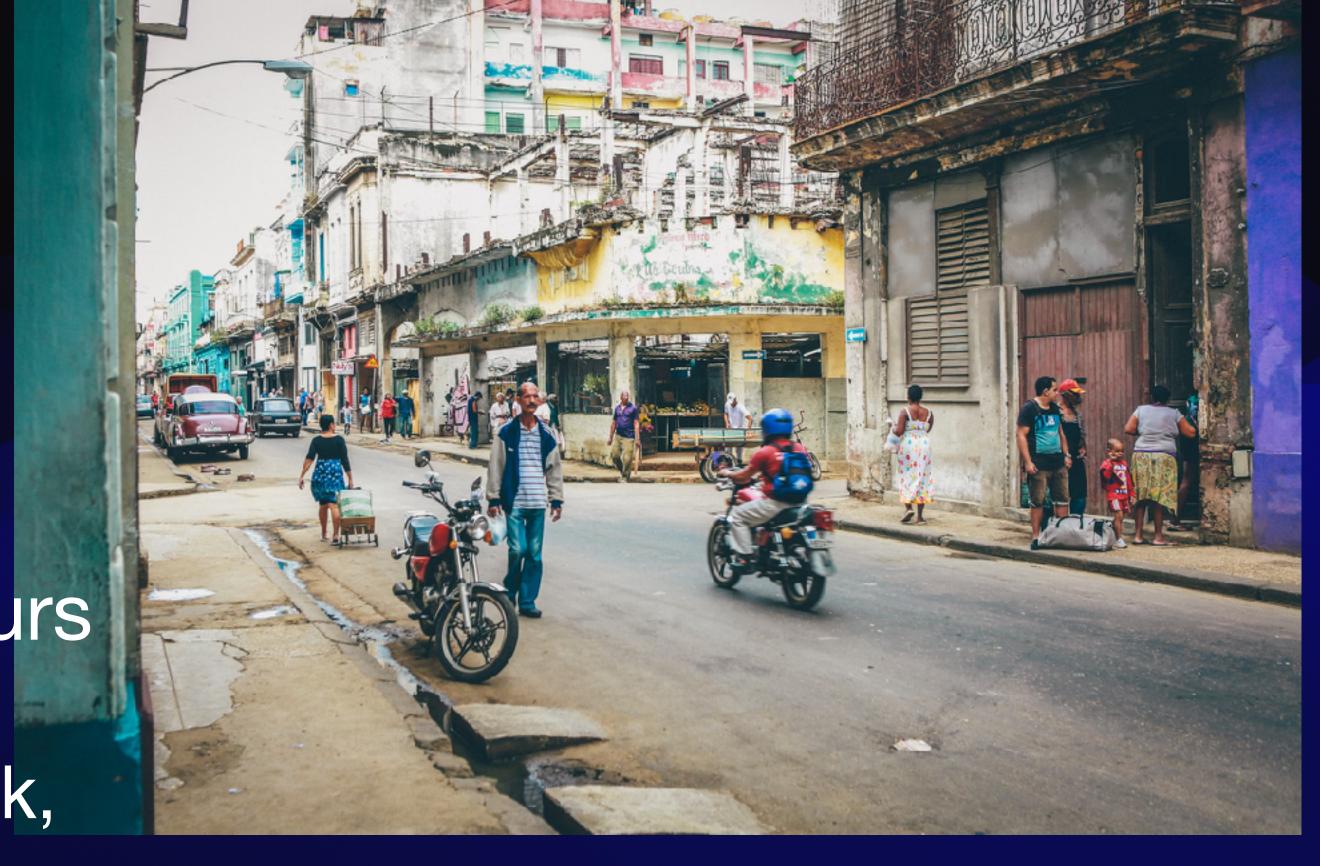


Photo by Nick Karvounis on Unsplash

Through every gift, give back to those in need; As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing, With every gift a benediction Be to the people of God.

Refrain:
Christ has no body now but yours
No hands, but yours
Here on this earth yours is the work,
To serve with the joy of compassion

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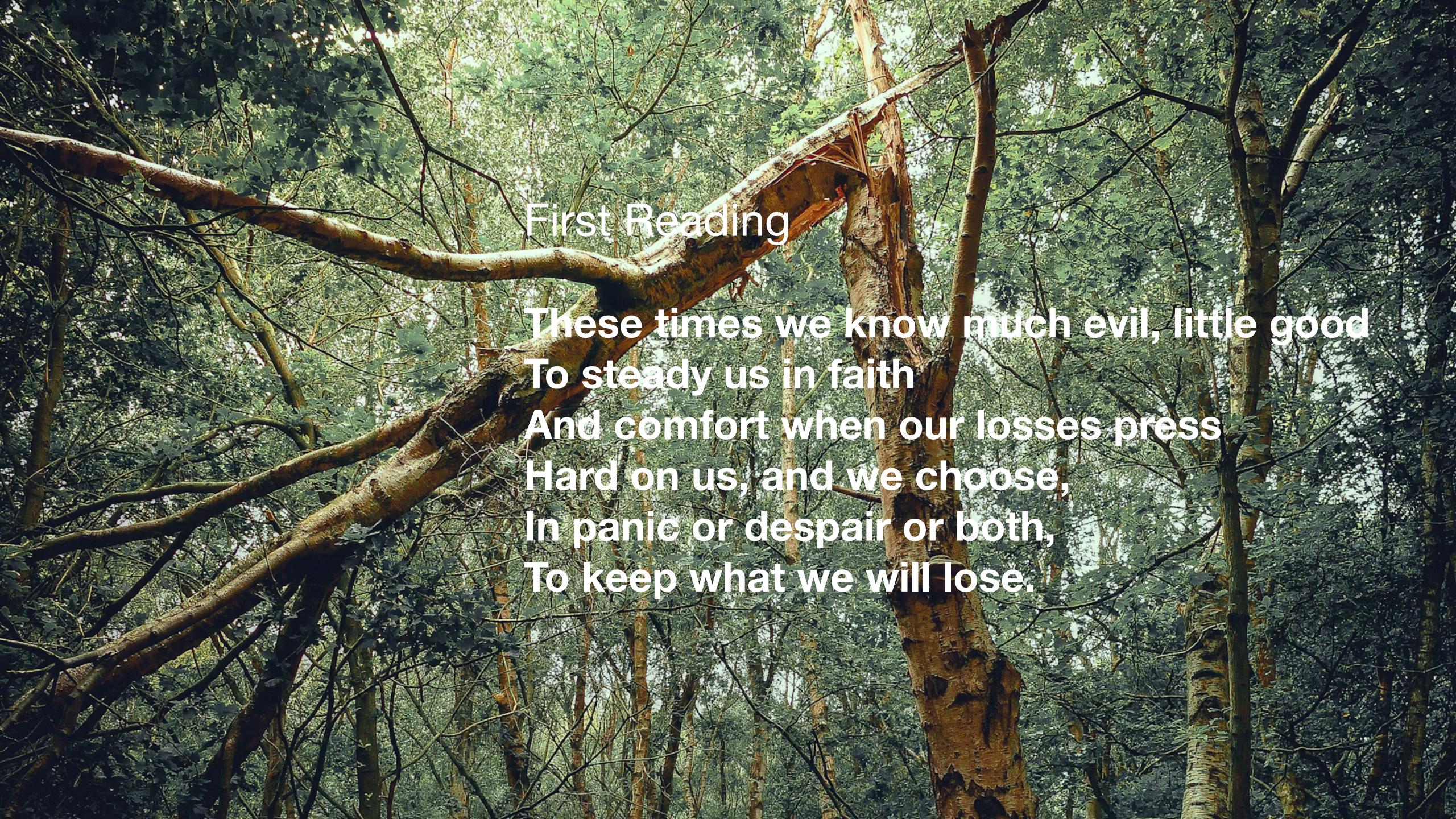
Gathering Prayer

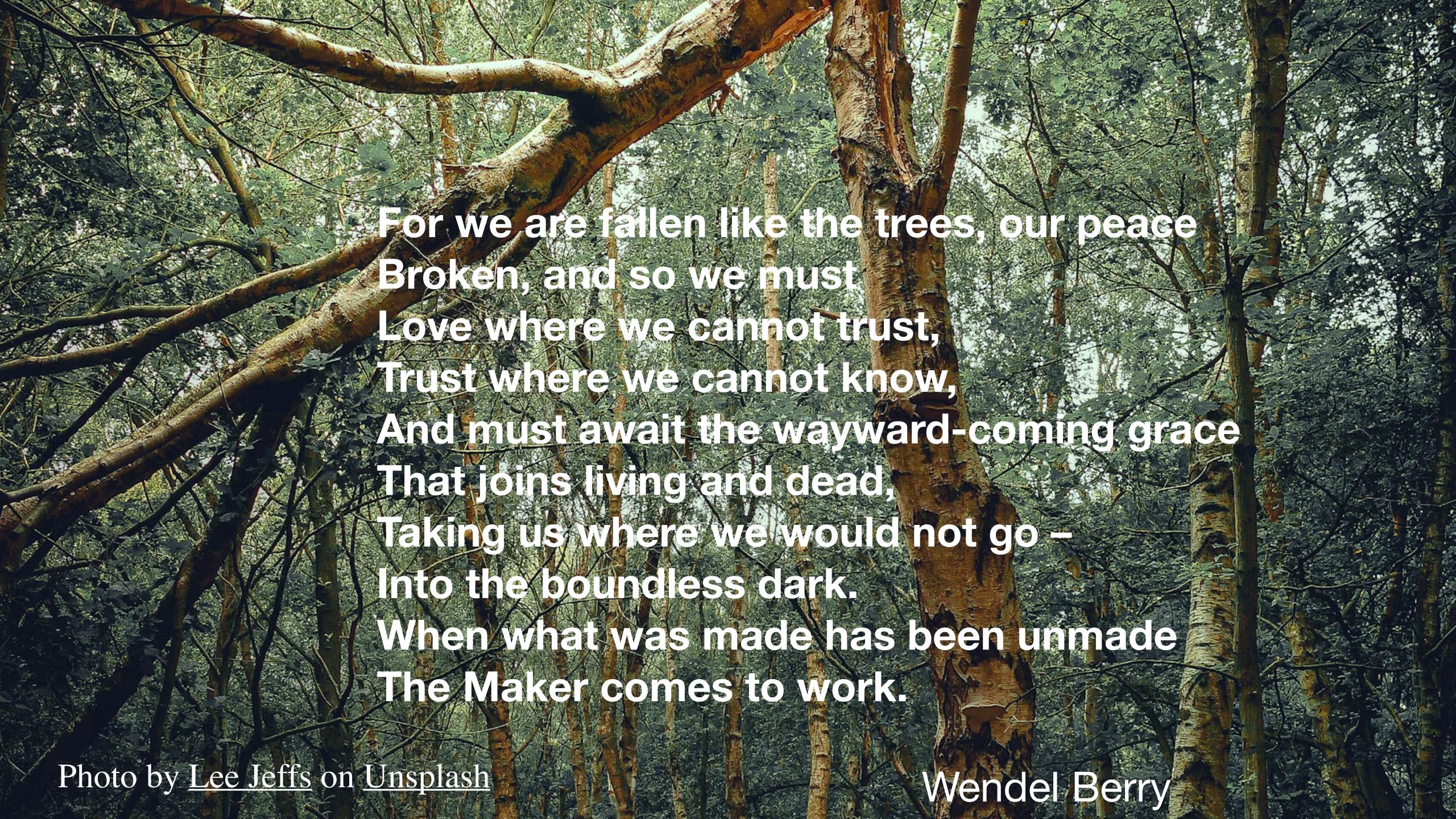
Home of the Homeless, gather the shawl of your compassion around those who have nowhere to abide, nowhere to call home, nowhere to work.

Nurturer of the Impoverished, turn the attention of political leaders toward systems that cause oppression; urge them to open their doors to refugees.

Justice Bringer, bother us. Keep after us. Open our eyes. Widen our hearts. Change our judgments. Urge us. Chase us. Badger us, until we act on behalf of all whose tears fall on foreign soil.

Rupp, Joyce. Prayers of Boundless Compassion





Acclamation: Show Us the Way

Show us the way of compassion, the way of joy and peace.
Show us the way of compassion, the way of joy and peace.

Show us the way, show us the way, show us the way of life.
Show us the way, show us the way, show us the way, show us the way,

Show us the way of compassion, the way of joy and peace.
Show us the way of compassion, the way of joy and peace.

Photo by <u>Samuele Sala Veni</u> on <u>Unsplash</u>

Second Reading

Anybody who's on the edge, disadvantaged in some way, or barred from a position of hegemony or power will naturally understand the tears of the prophets, with their gut-level knowledge of systemic evil, cultural sin, and group illusion...

Forgiveness of reality—including tragic reality—is the heart of the matter. All things cry for forgiveness in their imperfection, their incompleteness, their woundedness, their constant movement toward death. Mere rage or resentment will not change any of these realities. Tears often will, though: first by changing the one who weeps, and then by moving any who draw near to the weeping. Somehow, the prophets knew, the soul must weep to be a soul at all.

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Sermon

"While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved." Luke 15:20

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible

Photo by Greg Rakozy on Unsplash

Hymn of the Day: When the Poor Ones

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving; When the thirsty pass the cup, water to share; When the wounded offer others, strength and healing:

Refrain:

We see God, here by our side, walking our way; We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When compassion gives the suffering consolation; When expecting brings to birth hope that was lost; When we choose love, not the hatred all around us: (refrain) When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness; When our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth; When our longings, free from envy, seek the humble:

Refrain:

We see God, here by our side, walking our way; We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings; When the nations work to change war into peace; When the stranger is accepted as our neighbour: Refrain

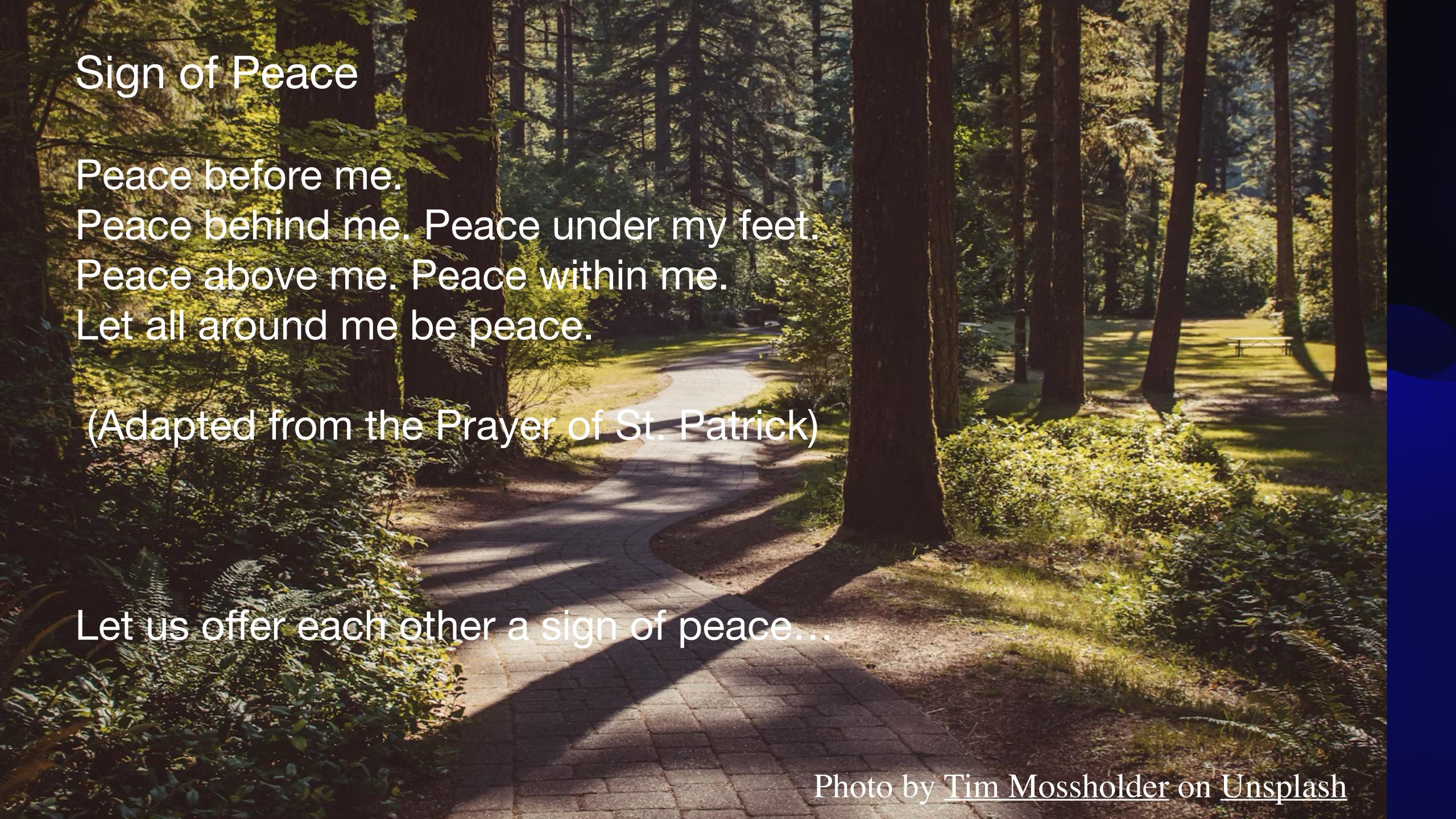
Prayers of the People

Companion of People Pushed to the Edge, let us stand with the least and the lost.

As we listened to the news this week, who has been pushed to the edge?

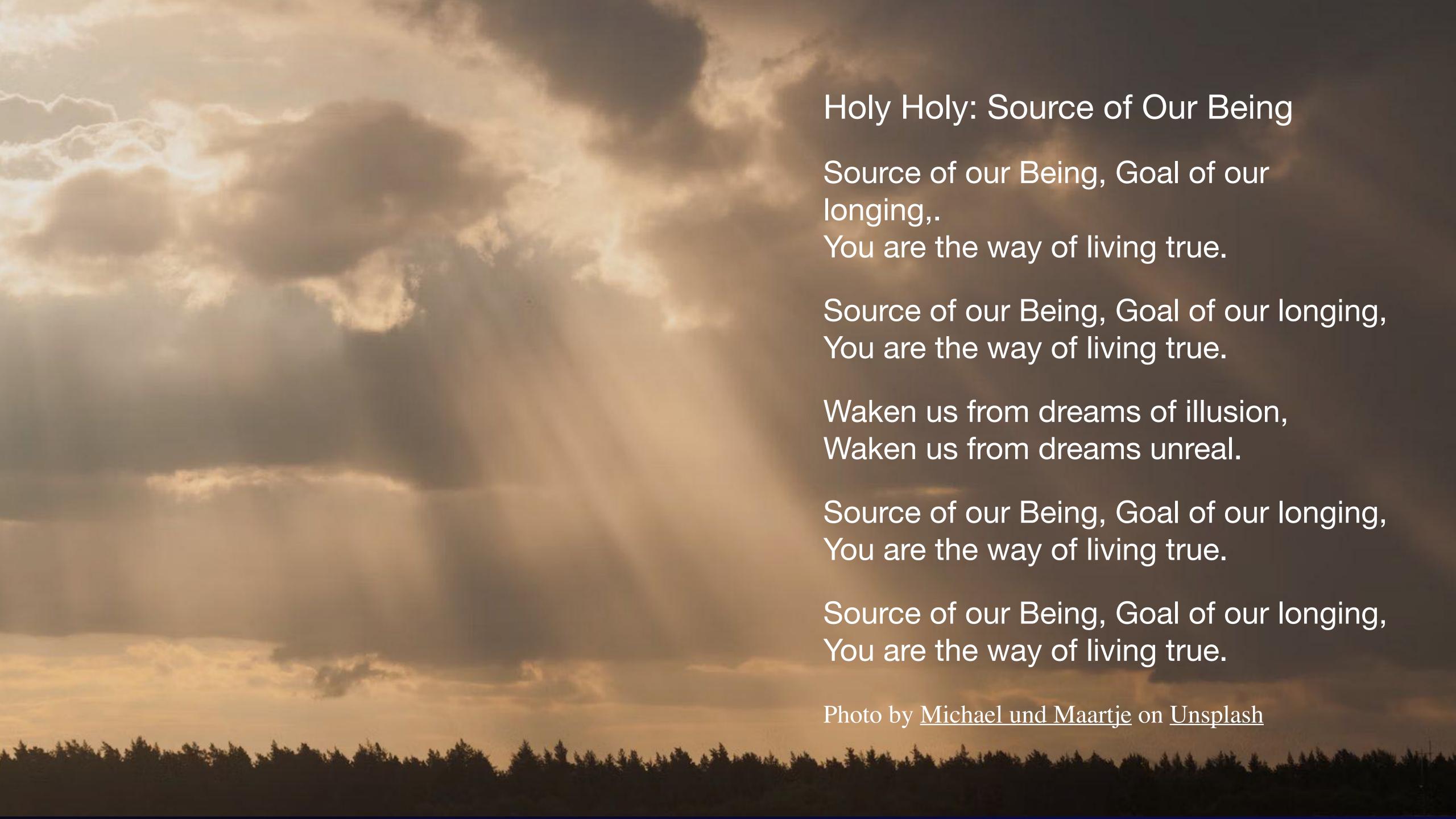
Rupp, Joyce. Prayers of Boundless Compassion





Thanksgiving Prayer

In the blessed abundance of creation, we gather to celebrate the nourishing gift of life. We gather in the power of the Spirit whose breath inspires the primal waters, calling into being the variety and abundance we see around us. That same Spirit sustains and animates our every endeavour, inviting us to act in wisdom and in truth. In gratitude and joy we embrace our calling and we lift our voices to proclaim as one the ancient song of praise:



Gathering the beloved community around the table of nourishing hope, Jesus took the bread, and in grateful remembrance offered the bread to each and to all, uttering these words: Take this all of you; This bread is like is my body which is broken and shared for all.

After the meal, Jesus took a cup, poured out in a spirit of solidarity and empowerment. Jesus gave thanks and shared the cup with his friends, saying: Take this, all of you and drink from it; This cup of wine is like my life-blood, the life of an everlasting covenant. In prophetic solidarity, it is poured out for you and for all. Sustain one another in the power of sacred memory.

We invoke the Spirit upon all who are gathered here that our solidarity around the Eucharistic table may awaken in us a yearning for compassion, justice and generosity, so that all peoples can enjoy the gifts of God's abundant nourishment.

We unite our thoughts and prayers with all who yearn for new life. In our daily lives may we be blessed with wisdom and courage, with vision and resolve.

Nurtured by your Word, nourished by your food; we proclaim the Living Christ:

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Prayer from Iona

Communion Prayers: Progressing Spirit

Alternative to the Prayer Attributed to Jesus

With grateful and humble hearts, we now pray:

Most Compassionate Life-giver, may we honour and-praise you; may we work with you to establish your new order of justice, peace and love.

Give us what we need for growth, and help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness. Strengthen us in the time of testing, that we may resist all evil for all the tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Most Compassionate fe-giver, may we honor and-praise you; may we work with you to establish your new order of justice, peace and love. Give us what we need for growth, and help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness. Strengthen us in the time of testing, that we may resist all evil for all

Communion Hymn: We Come to the Hungry Feast

We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace. To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied. We come, we come to the hungry feast.

We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind. We come, we come to the hungry feast.

We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease, and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us; still we come, we come to the hungry feast

Prayer After Communion

Indwelling Spirit, we have shared bread and wine, the symbols of compassion, service and unity.
Encourage us in our work together, that we may grow in love as we serve one another.
Amen



Sending Hymn: Where Does Compassion Start?

Where does compassion start?
How does compassion grow?
Her seed is at the heart of every faith we know: compassion honours others' place, dethroning self with willing grace.

How does compassion thrive in worlds of greed and grief? Her goodness stays alive through those of strong belief: compassion, luminous and clear, outshining wastes of war and fear.

Where is compassion's role in cultures, or in creeds? At center, with the soul who feels another's needs: compassion brings the touch of friend,

Dynamic is the power that heals, restores and gives, connecting at the core with everyone who lives, transcending culture, colour, race, compassion builds the house of peace.

a bandage that will bind and mend.

Blessing and Dismissal

Holy One, your love unites all of us who live on this planet.

Move us to enter wholeheartedly into suffering, while not allowing it to plummet into our souls. Help us to keep a healthy balance of caring, as we tend lovingly to others and to ourselves.

Thank you for the immensity of your love.

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Announcements

"There will not be justice until each person is satisfied being any person in the world, in any situation, anywhere."

Elizabeth A. Johnson, Abounding in Kindness

