**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Contemplative Prayer – July 6-7**

**GATHERING**

O God who creates and who gives breath,

be with us now as we come to you

with the great longings of our world

and of our selves.

We come together

trusting that the Spirit will be at work in us.

Help us to let go and to let come.

Help us to live the questions

and to move with you, in you, and toward you,

ever open to what is waiting to be born in us.

**BEING HERE: Come as you are, in divine presence…**

We are moving from getting here to being here. Notice where you might be holding tension in your body. Let it loosen… your jaw…, your shoulders…, stomach…, legs…. Let your breath slow and deepen. Breathe out whatever is pulling you away from this moment. Breathe in God’s love for you. I invite you to be aware of God’s love for you as we enter 10 minutes of silence.

**(10 minutes of silence)**

**AWARENESS**

Let us listen to excerpts from a reflection by Sister Sally Hodgdon, who quotes [Christopher Pramuk](https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/2017_lcwr_assembly_keynote_address_-_dr._christopher_pramuk.pdf), in the 2018 [reflective journal](https://lcwr.org/item/becoming-one-love-daily-reflection-book) of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious:

“We stand under a cloud of witnesses,

a kinship with all things in God.” \*

“We have come to know intimately, in Christ,

a God who remembers the least and most forgotten of history,

a God whose love overturns the power of sin and death,

and so we can dare to live from a hope that seems, by all reasonable accounts, impossible.” \*

“I have come to know that our ability to foster communion

is related to our openness to recall being loved

and our ability to be vulnerable before God and others.”

“It is the memory of deep love

that fuels and keeps in balance our ability

‘to live from a seemingly impossible hope.’” \*\*

\* Christopher Pramuk \*\* Sally M. Hodgdon, CSJ

O You who love us, as we move into 20 minutes of silence, please help us dare to live in the memory of deep love and in seemingly impossible hope.

**(20 minutes of silence)**

**INTENTION**

Let’s begin to come back together… bringing to each other the God who accompanied each of us in our silence. Let’s settle back into our chairs, take a few deep breaths…. Let’s invite each other to share the prayers that arise in us now. Our response will be: You who love us, hear our prayer.

God among us, we long to live in kinship with all things, in you. Help us to foster this communion in our broken, beautiful world. Please strengthen those who witness this communion with their lives, especially the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and Catholic sisters. For this we pray. You who love us, hear our prayer.

(Shared prayers)

**CLOSING**

We place all of our prayers, those spoken and those unspoken, into your loving care, and we entrust the outcome to you. As we do, we use the words of Sister Pat Farrell. “There is so much more going on within and around us than we will ever be able to perceive. The unseen movement of Love is creatively holding everything together in ways infinitely beyond what we could ask or imagine.” We ask the Spirit to “open space in us to flow with what we cannot see, with what is beyond us. Yet the path remains always a walk in the dark. We walk it together, summoning one another to deepening faith in the invisible energy of Love that surrounds and carries us.”

And so together we pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

**SIGN OF PEACE**