*We gather in solidarity with women religious for*

***Communal Contemplative Prayer – Date, 202x***

***Settle into the immense Love in which we live and move and have our being....***

As I sit here, the beating of my heart,  
          the ebb and flow of my breathing, the movements of my mind  
          are all signs of God's ongoing creation of me.  
          I pause for a moment, and become aware  
          of this presence of God within me….

*Notice if some words or images here lead you to rest in God. Follow them, or*

*just follow the Spirit.*

**From “A Brave and Starling Truth” by Maya Angelou**

We, this people, on this small and drifting planet  
Whose hands can strike with such abandon  
That in a twinkling, life is sapped from the living  
Yet those same hands can touch with such healing, irresistible tenderness  
That the haughty neck is happy to bow  
And the proud back is glad to bend  
Out of such chaos, of such contradiction  
We learn that we are neither devils nor divines  
  
When we come to it  
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body  
Created on this earth, of this earth  
Have the power to fashion for this earth  
A climate where every man and every woman  
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety  
Without crippling fear  
  
When we come to it  
We must confess that we are the possible  
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world  
That is when, and only when  
We come to it.

A person sitting on a bench looking at the sky

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***30 minutes of silence***

***We welcome one another’s reflections and prayers****.*

**Closing:** Dear God, may we never forget how much we need each other. After all, we are connected through your creation. Let us not be afraid to talk, to laugh, to cry, and to share stories and our lives with each other. Amen.

Or: 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 Earth. Amen.

Settling in: modified from Sacred Space, a website of the Irish Jesuits

First Closing prayer option: Maria Shriver’s Sunday Paper <https://www.mariashriversundaypaper.com/>