**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Contemplative Prayer, Dates, 20xx**

**Gathering -** Most gracious Love, we gladly come to your endless embrace. We are here (this evening) (this afternoon) to attune to your movement, so that our growth may always be in you.

So let us settle into your presence, Beloved One.

May I quiet my words and listen…. May I calm my thoughts and be….

May I soften my heart and open…. May I still my soul and receive….

(Pause) Our breath says we are here…. We are together…. we are in God.

**“Keeping Quiet” by Pablo Neruda**

Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still  
for once on the face of the earth,  
let’s not speak in any language;  
let’s stop for a second,  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines;  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victories with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death.  
Perhaps the earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.

Now I’ll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

**(30 minutes of silence)**

**(Sharing, if you would like)**

**Closing –** Holy One, may our inner quiet flow into the world as “your living sign. Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time.” Amen.

Image from <https://www.awakin.org/v2/read/view.php?tid=2298>

Closing quote from Bernadette Farrell’s song “Word of God” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ0aQ6mou5E>