**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Contemplative Prayer – August 25-26, 2020**

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**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.

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

Let’s make space in ourselves for God. Notice where there is tightness in your body… and let yourself loosen…. Notice where there might be thoughts or feelings that might be distracting during this time… and set them aside… knowing you can pick them up later if that seems right. Notice your breath…. Exhale more fully…. Inhale more deeply… Feel your chest and stomach rise and fall… Let’s take one deep breath to be here… one to be together… and one to become free in God, as we enter 10 minutes of silence.  **(10 minutes of silence)**

**AWARENESS:** Parts of Psalm 119 from *Psalms for Living* by Nan C. Merrill

You have shown us the way of Truth,

 the way that leads to freedom.

O, that I might ever reflect the Light!

Then I shall know inner peace, as

 I surrender myself into your Hands….

I listen in the Silence,

 awaiting the clarity of your Counsel.

May I become a living fountain of joy

 and give thanks for your bountiful blessings!

My soul is willing, O Merciful One,

 yet I would flee.

Who is the enemy from whom I run,

 but the fears hidden in the shadows within!

Strengthen me according to your Word,

 lead me gently into the Light.

For I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

 with trust in You, I will face my own darkness.

I will not run from the fears that beset me, so that

 each one may be transformed in your Love.

May I become hollow like the reed,

 so You may play your melody through me.

For I long to be attuned to the great song of the Cosmos,

 to know the song of inner praise!

O, that I might hear the Divine Melody within

 and give birth to a dancing star!

You are fulfilling your promises in me,

 O Faithful One, according to Your Word.

You are good, and all good comes from You;

 help me to share the treasures of the heart.

Your hands and love created and fashioned me;

 give me understanding that I may live fully in You.

Those who live with fear and in darkness

 shall see how You have transformed my life.

Create in me a clean heart, that your Light might be seen!

Awaken the people of earth, O You

who are the Great Awakener!

In your steadfast love, melt all hearts

that have turned to stone;

 long have we awaited a great

Spirit-quake.

(Psalm 119, “Psalms for Praying” by Nan C. Merrill)

Let us take these words and images into 20 minutes of silence with God. **(20 minutes of silence)**

**INTENTION --** Let’s invite each other to share the prayers that arise in us now.

(Shared prayers – “God of Wholeness, hear our prayer.”)

O God, we join with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in hope that you will awaken us so that our presence itself becomes our primary ministry. May your light be seen in us. For this we pray. God of Wholeness, hear our prayer.

**CLOSING**

O Great Love, we place all of our prayers, those spoken and those unspoken, into your care, and we entrust the outcome to you. As we close, we are inspired by [the words](https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/news/files/a_call_to_spiritual_bonding_-_elise_garcia_op.pdf) of Sister Eloise Garcia: “What would happen if Catholic sisters [and other lay people] were to unleash the power of their lifetimes of prayer and contemplative practice to hold the safety and protection of all peoples across the world as a sacred intention?

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**