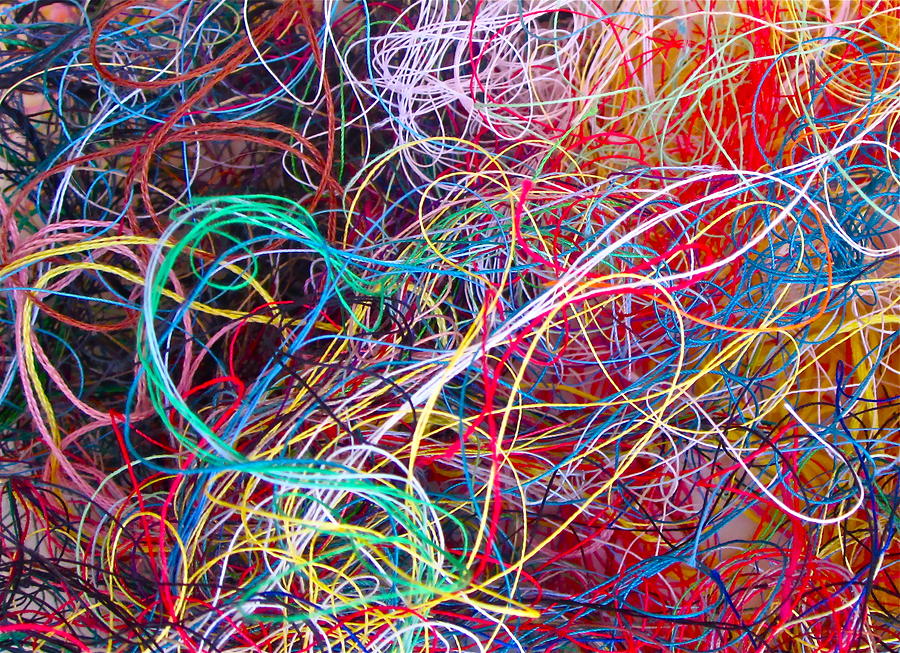
**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Contemplative Prayer – July 28-29, 2020**

**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 loosen what is tight in us so God has room to come in. Notice your breath and let it slow and deepen. Relax into the support of your chair, and of this community. Feel your neck soften, and your shoulders, and let the softness flow down through your belly, your legs, your feet.... Let’s take one deep breath to be here… one to be together… and one to let God fill us during 10 minutes of silence.

**(10 minutes of silence)**

**AWARENESS**

We are here to rest in God and to be transformed in God. Let’s read the poem “The Way It Is” by William Stafford, in a contemplative [resource](https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/news/files/july_13.pdf) from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious: [read from linked web page – add the questions if others don’t have the resource].

End: Each of us might want to consider the rest of the LCWR resource as we enter 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. Our response will be: Holy One, hear our prayer.

God among us, help us to trust our own threads and the threads of others. Help us, together, to weave a tapestry so beautiful and strong that it can support your world. Thank you for the shining threads interwoven with ours by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and Catholic sisters. Bless LCWR abundantly as they prepare for their online annual Assembly in mid-August. For this we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

(Shared prayers)

**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:

"How might our prayers and intentions be joined across [communities]

for the common good of the whole Earth community

to help lift the spirits of a people, especially

in the wake of closed churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship?

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**