

## SOLIDARITY WITH SISTERS' COMMUNAL CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

“When we rise, we rise together.” – Sr. Helen Prejean’s Easter Sunday [reflection](#)

### 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

Sit in a position that feels stable and comfortable. Let your breath slow and deepen and find its natural pace, with tensions flowing out as you exhale. Become aware of divine presence in you and around you.

**(10 MINUTES OF SILENCE)**

### AWARENESS

The poem “TRASNA (Crossing)” by Sister Raphael Considine, PBVM

The pilgrims paused on the ancient stones  
In the mountain gap.  
Behind them stretched the roadway they had traveled.  
Ahead, mist hid the track.  
Unspoken the question hovered:  
Why go on? Is life not short enough?  
Why seek to pierce its mystery?  
Why venture further on strange paths, risking all'  
Surely that is a gamble for fools -- or lovers.  
Why not return quietly to the known road?  
Why be a pilgrim still?  
A voice they knew called to them, saying:  
This is Trasna, the crossing place.  
Choose! Go back if you must,

You will find your way easily by yesterday's fires,  
there may be life in the embers yet.  
If that is not your deep desire,  
Stand still. Lay down your load.  
Take your life firmly in your two hands,  
(Gently... you are trusted with something precious)  
While you search your heart's yearnings:  
What am I seeking? What is my quest?  
When your star rises deep within,  
Trust yourself to its leading.  
You will have the light for first steps.  
This is Trasná, the crossing place.  
Choose!  
This is Trasná, the crossing place  
Come !

**(20 MINUTES OF SILENCE)**

#### **INTENTION**

God within us, give us courage and wisdom to stand together at the crossroads and create space for communion, space where the Holy Spirit is free to act. Holy One, hear our prayer.

God among us, with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, help us to find our path in solidarity with all who are most vulnerable, and with Earth itself. Holy One, hear our prayer.

God in all things, help us to recognize you during this pandemic in the endless ways you are present – in courageous workers of every kind; in leaders who seek the common good; in people who are creatively helping others in informal and volunteer ways; and in all of us united in global prayer that we come out of this as one human family worldwide. Holy One, hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray?.... (After each prayer:) Holy One, hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, that "It is not ours to see the future. Our task is not to create a plan for the new to emerge. It is to create a space for the new to emerge. For the young. For the growing diversities. A space where the Holy Spirit is free to work. If we can do this, the future will emerge. And it will be good." And so 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**