

# Quiet Space for Reflection

September 1, 2020

**Practice of Presence:** While seated in a quiet place, feet on the floor, hands in lap, eyes closed, take 3 slow, intentional deep cleansing breaths.

**Lectio Divina** A sacred reading adding intentional meditation on the words as one reads

**Read silently** (reflect)

**Read aloud to yourself** (then, respond silently to yourself)  
(or say your thoughts aloud to someone with you)  
(or e-mail them to our group to share.)

**Rest in your reflections** (perhaps re-read the passage again to affirm what it has to say to you)

## **First Reading:**

“I am a string in the concert of God’s joy.” (Jacob Boehme in *The Confessions of Jacob Boehme*)

It is a lovely image, since it contains both uniqueness and solidarity – the concert can manifest only if there are other instruments in the orchestra as well. We need to feel the hologram once again, to sense the dance of colors that is the real divine aliveness shining through the snakeskin of our outer world.

In *The Way of Transformation* by *Karlfried Graf Durckheim*, Durckheim explains, that ‘person,’ in the ultimate sense, means one “through whose life Greater Life resounds,” (*personare* means “to sound through”). That is what happens to me when I become “a string in the concert of God’s joy.” I am “sounded through” by the music, and in that sounding, in harmonic resonance with all the other instruments, is revealed both my irreplaceable uniqueness and my inescapable belonging.

We are citizens of this kingdom (the kingdom of heaven of which Jesus spoke), first and foremost. Our identity as Americans, Canadians, Africans, members of First Nations, Muslims, Jews – all that comes later. Our hearts minds, and souls are hard-wired for the cosmic responsibility we bear, and all the currents of our being set toward the Whole as surely as all rivers flow toward the sea. We did not make it this way, and we have no choice in the matter. But when we open our hearts to our true citizenship, the freedom, coherence, and community we so yearn for are right there to meet us. And the broken and scattered shards of our world are reunited and illuminated by the Master’s art as we become persons of love.

~ Cynthia Bourgeault, *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*

## **Second reading:**

Dear God, help us to truly become the “persons of love” we are intended to be in this world rather than dissonant strings in your concert of life when we choose our own way. We thank you for the many reminders in the New Testament scriptures of how we can be “persons of love” to others.

Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other (Ephesians 4:32)

Care for one another (I Corinthians 12:25)

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)

Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)

Encourage one another (I Thessalonians 4:18)

Love one another, as I have loved you (John 13:34)

Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Love is . . . . and love never fails. (I Corinthians 13:4-8)

Amen.

**Guided Breath Meditation (5 minutes)** by Denise Pastoor. Hover your cursor over the site, press “control & left click at the same time, and it will open.

<https://www.facebook.com/denise.pastoor/videos/10216263185069352/>