



Elizabeth Wang, Radiant Light

## *Contemplative Worship: Space to Experience Ourselves in God*

8:45 a.m. + November 7, 2021 + Feast of All Saints and All Souls

*When great souls die, the air around us become light, rare, sterile.*

*We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly, see with hurtful clarity.*

*Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid, promised walks never taken....*

*And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly.*

*Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.*

*They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed.*

Maya Angelou

Crossing the Threshold into Worship

*Psalm 131*

Welcome

## Praying a Psalm Quietly

*Psalm 39 (A Book of Psalms)*

*Unnamable, unthinkable God, Lord of the dead and the living,  
teach us how transient we are and how fragile is everything we love.  
For all of us flash into being, as insubstantial as a breath.  
Our lives are a fleeting shadow; then we vanish into the night.  
And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My only trust is in You.  
Help me to give up my desires and to let go of who I am.  
You have granted me this brief existence, which is almost nothing in Your sight:  
may I receive it gratefully and gratefully give it back.  
Turn toward me; touch my spirit; stay beside me,  
until the moment when I must step out into Your final darkness. Amen.*

## Resting in the Divine Presence

*"Veni Sancte Spiritus"*

♩ = 56

Ve - ni san - cte Spi - ri - tus.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

## Listening to Sacred Scripture

*Romans 8:35, 38-39*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?  
For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love  
of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## Calling Upon the Merciful One

*"Kyrie" (Lord have Mercy)*

*Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.  
Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.  
Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.*

## A Canticle for All Saints and All Souls

*from Out of the Silence*

*Response: Nothing can separate us from the Love of God.*

*Nothing can separate us from the Love of God. No affliction, no hardship . . . For we know that: (R)  
No persecution, no danger, no sword . . . For we know that: (R)  
No terror, no knife, no bomb . . . For we know that: (R)  
No poison, no shock, no sudden death . . . For we know that: (R)  
There is nothing in death or in life . . . For we know that: (R)  
No powers that be, no evil's grip . . . For we know that: (R)  
In the world as it is or the world as it shall be . . . For we know that: (R)  
There is nothing in the whole of creation . . . For we know that: (R)  
You have embodied Your Love for us in Jesus . . . For we know that: (R)  
We shall trust in Your Presence through all that is to come . . . For we know that: (R)*

Response

*"Don't Be Afraid"*

*Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger,  
My love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger,  
And I have promised,  
Promised to be always near.*

Reflecting on All Saints: Guides for the Way

Prayer for All Saints

Offering Our Thanks

*"Lord God, You Love Us"*

Lord God, you love us, source of com - pas - sion.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord God, You Love Us". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Reflecting on All Souls: Companions for the Way

Prayer for All Souls

Silence

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. You are in the Love of God. Christ is your Divine Center. There is nothing you need to do. Just be and relax. Center your attention in your heart, or breathe deeply down into your belly. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Mercy, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

The Eucharistic Prayer

*O God, by whose Word commanded, "Let light shine out of darkness,"  
You have caused us to be Your children of Light.*

***We thank You for all those who have reflected Your love to us  
and have shown us the Image of God.***

*Hear our thanksgiving for those who have entered their eternal home  
to live with You but whose lives of faith live on in our hearts:*

(silence as you whisper the name(s) of loved ones)

*With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us,  
we gather around Your throne of grace and remember Your great sacrifice of love,  
offered through Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith and the faith of all your saints.*

***Today we celebrate this holy meal in Your presence and in the company of the great cloud  
of witnesses who are reflections of Your Light. By Your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one  
with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until we feast with all the saints at  
Your heavenly banquet. Amen.***

Receiving the Life of Christ

*"I Am the Bread of Life"*

*I am the Bread of Life; all who eat this bread will never die.*

*I am God's Love revealed; I am broken that you might be healed.*

Communion

Remembering with Thanksgiving

*from Jan Richardson*

*For those who walked with us, **this is a prayer** . . . (silence)*

*For those who have gone ahead, **this is a blessing** . . . (silence)*

*For those who touched and tended us, who lingered with us while they lived, **this is a thanksgiving** . . . (silence)*

*For those who journey still with us in the shadows of awareness,  
in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams, **this is a benediction.***

Waiting on a Good Word

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.*

*If you are worshipping online, please text the word **center** to 75787.*

*If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to 75787.*

*For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit:*

*[www.TheCenterFCS.org](http://www.TheCenterFCS.org).*

## **On All Saints' Day**

All Saints' Day is a family reunion indeed, of a clan made kin by Christ's blood. There are heroes and scoundrels at the party, beloved aunts and estranged cousins, relatives we adore and those who plainly baffle us. They are all ours, and we are all included. On All Saints' Day we worship amidst a great fluttering of wings, with the whole host of heaven crowding the air above our heads. On All Saints' Day they belong to us and we to them, and as their ranks swell, so do the possibilities that open up in our own lives. Because of them and because of one another and because of the God who binds us all together, we can do more than any of us had dreamed to do alone.

~ Barbara Brown Taylor