**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Contemplative Prayer – Sept. 8-9, 2020**

**GATHERING**

Loving God, we come here now to know you

alive in us.

Help us to let go and to let come.

Help us to live the questions.

Help us to settle into your presence, remembering Wendell Berry’s words –

Best of any song

is birdsong

in the quiet, but first

you must have the quiet. So we settle into you….

We are here to let God transform us. So let’s open ourselves to God. Feel the comfort of your chair and relax into it… and relax into God’s love for you. Notice your body and any tension you are carrying with you. Notice your thoughts and try to put aside those that distract you. Notice your breath. Feel your chest and stomach rise and fall as you breathe… and know the Spirit is moving in you gently and easily. Now let’s take 3 deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together….and one to hear God’s song in us. Now we let God’s breath carry us into 10 minutes of silence.

**(10 minutes of silence)**

Listen for a word or phrase that draws you into Wendell Berry’s 5th Sabbath poem from 1995:

To my granddaughters who visited the Holocaust Museum

on the day of the burial of Yitzhak Rabin

Now you know the worst  
we humans have to know  
about ourselves, and I am sorry,

for I know that you will be afraid.  
To those of our bodies given  
without pity to be burned, I know

there is no answer  
but loving one another,  
even our enemies, and this is hard.

But remember:  
when a man of war becomes a man of peace,  
he give a light, divine

though it is also human.  
When a man of peace is killed  
by a man of war, he gives a light.

You do not have to walk in darkness.  
If you will have the courage for love,  
you may walk in light. It will be

the light of those who have suffered  
for peace. It will be  
your light. Let us be with God in 20 minutes of silence.

**(20 minutes of silence)**

**PRAYERS**

Let’s come back together… Let us take a moment to let our experience in silence take a shape we can hold onto….. Let us invite each other to share the prayers that arise in us now.

(Shared prayers – “Holy One, hear our prayer.”)

O God beyond all names, with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious we pray for the courage to love –even when that requires unreasonable forgiveness. Holy One, hear our prayer.

**CLOSING**

O Great Love, we place all of our prayers, those spoken and those unspoken, into your care. We entrust the outcome to you, and we offer you our hearts, our minds, and our wills in service of that outcome. 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**