



Lenten Prayer Service for Week Three

Leader: Spirit of our Loving, Provident God, bless us as we gather to pray.

All: Give us hearts that carry hope and believe in peace.

Song: (Your selection)

Reading: adapted from *Providence and Compassion*

“The dynamic, loving relationship among the persons of the Trinity is reflected in creation. Thus, Jewish and early Christian thought recognized a providential plan in God’s love and care for creation. God gave the care of the earth over to humanity and with this the responsibility to care for Earth in the same manner as did the Trinity. As stated, one of God’s attributes in caring for creation was a sense of compassion as evidenced in the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus. A compassion for struggling creation and a love for it brought God to live among us. Jesus came to show us how to live. Scripture lists many examples of Jesus’ compassion—his compassion for the widow who lost her only son, or of a hen guarding her chicks. Jesus’ life shows that God entered even into suffering. However, from his death comes the resurrection and new life. When Jesus died, all of creation was affected in that the spirit of the cosmic Christ flowed out to all creation, an act of unimaginable compassion.” --*Roberta Rorke, SP*

Response: *Mystery* – a poem by Maria Patterson, CDP, from *The Art of Providence*

Looking out over mountains misted
In the blue haze of winter,
the mystery of Providence profoundly breathes
over and in me.
Songs of the Creator hum their steady rhythm
through every breath, drum-beating softly
with every movement.
Walking into the wooded landscape,
trees tall and stately,
extend their arms to me,
swoop me up, embrace my being
in wonder and reverence...
One of the finest moments of God’s creative,
dynamic involvement with me...with us.
Dancing must be our song...
drum –humming our breath...
Our voice must be that of the silenced...
our tears, holy watering of land, heart, soul...
Self-giving must be our path for God’s
creative, dynamic involvement,
weaving through
all moments—
weaving all into one cosmic-dance response.

Lenten Prayer Service



Week Three

Pause for silent reflection

Reflection questions

- How can you extend compassionate care to all creation?
- In what ways has the mystery of Providence breathed over you?

Closing Prayer: by Lucy Bethel, SP, from *The Art of Providence*

Provident God...
Holy Mystery...
Spirit Wisdom...

We stand before you in this moment of self-giving.
Receive and embrace all that we are
and all that we will become.

All we have is gift from you, O Living One.
Teach us to use all of our gifts to co-create with you
a world of love, justice and peace.

God of Providence, fill us with your love
and gracious compassion so that we,
with the whole universe,
may participate in showing forth
the Word of God in the flesh.