



continuing the journey of

transforming grace:

transforming presence

Reflection for the week of January 28, 2024

Opening Song: Beautiful Chorus, Inner Peace

Please let me feel inner peace
From my center at the center of me
Please let me feel inner peace
From my center at the center of me
My heart is open
I am aware
In me is a knowing
Of love, love, love

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

Be present in our midst as we open our hearts to what divides and distracts us.

Let us remember that you are present in our creation, in all that separates us, and in the invitation to build bridges of relationship.

Assist us in knowing peace, stillness, and the invitation to deepening truth.

Blessing/Poem

Blessing in the Chaos, Jan Richardson

Video Credit: Dan Stevens

Scripture

Psalm 95 If Today you Hear God's Voice, Harden Not your Hearts Jesse Manibusen

Practice

Choose one of these recordings on the forces of polarization:

PBS: How US History could provide a path out of polarization

Jane Mansbridge, Harvard Kennedy School: 3 Causes of Polarization



Questions for Reflection and Dialogue

As you reflect on what you have heard, spend a few moments recalling your own story of division and polarization.

How did you learn to identify with a particular group, political party or issue organization?

How has your consciousness shifted in the last 10 years?

What influences have shaped the shifts you identify?

Closing Prayer

Frank Borman, A Prayer from Apollo 8

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

Closing Song

Rhapsody of Rest, Sara Thomsen