



continuing the journey of

transforming grace:

transforming presence

Reflection for the week of February 11, 2024

Opening Song: We Shall Be Known
by MaMuse

Opening Prayer

Howard Thurman, from "Meditations of the Heart"

Lord, Lord, open unto me
Open unto me, light for my darkness
Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Poem

Just Beyond Yourself by David Whyte

*There is a road
always beckoning...*

Scripture

"A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean." Mark 1:40

Practice

Irshad Manji

5 Skills for conversing like a level-human being
In Arabic, Irshad means "guidance." My mission: to teach a critical mass of people the skills of moral courage — doing the right thing in the face of our fears.

It is best to engage in this work right where we live. Rather than focusing on elected or campaigning leaders, begin by keeping alert for the opportunities in your midst.



Questions for Reflection and Dialogue

Watch for places where someone may be experiencing the exclusion of the leper. See where you might extend an invitation to a different kind of inquiry.

Dwell in the stillness of asking for the grace to lessen the fear and increase the courage to reach across your own divide, inviting another to "tell me more."

Describe what is stirring within you.

Closing Prayer in Song

Rihanna, Lift Me Up, from *Black Panther*