



continuing the journey of
transforming grace:
 transforming presence

Reflection for the Third Week of Lent | March 3, 2024

Opening Song: Navajo Chant,
 Barbara McAfee

Opening Prayer
 Pope Francis

Lord, God of Abraham (and Sarah) , God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. Amen.

Scripture
 John 2:25

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

Poem
 Mimesis by Fady Joudah

My daughter
 wouldn't hurt a spider
 That had nested
 Between her bicycle handles
 For two weeks
 She waited
 Until it left of its own accord

If you tear down the web I said
 It will simply know
 This isn't a place to call home
 And you'd get to go biking

She said that's how others
 Become refugees isn't it?

Fady Joudah is a Palestinian-American poet and physician. He is the 2007 winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Competition for his collection of poems The Earth in the Attic.

Listen

Examining how US politics became intertwined with personal identity

For Reflection and Dialogue
 Being Present to our Experience

Spend a few minutes of quiet to allow your own story to be present, and then share your awareness with another person or small group.

When do you first recall learning about a group that might do you harm? How did you learn who was the "other" and the meaning for you?

Where have you experienced a shift or a change in this understanding? What has helped you to allow change to happen?

During the week, be aware of places where you can recognize your identity being aligned with a divide. Try to do this without judgement, but only with awareness.



Closing Prayer

Pope Francis

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother" (sister), and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Opening Song

Down in the River to Pray, Women of the World