



continuing the journey of  
**transforming grace:**  
transforming presence

Reflection for the Fifth Week of Lent | March 17, 2024

*Opening Song:*

Deep Peace, Sara Thomsen

*Opening Prayer*

Coffee Shop Rabbi, Rabbi Ruth Adar

*El Rachum v'Chanun* Merciful and Gracious God, Healer of the sick, Source of all Wisdom, we ask You for Your help in this time of trouble. Help us to see Your world as it truly is. Help us to tell the truth, and to recognize lies and half-truths. Give us discernment, and share some small measure of Your Wisdom, so that we may find our way through the present discord.

We ask that You, whom we call *Erech apayim v'rov chesed*, "slow to anger and abundant in kindness," grant us the ability to look upon one another with eyes of compassion. Help us look past our anger, past our fears, past our grudges and recrimination to truly see one another in all our humanity.

*Scripture*

Psalm 51: Create in me a Clean Heart

*Poem*

Please Call Me By My True Names: a Poem by Thich Nhat Hahn

*Please Call Me By My True Names* is a poem written by Thich Nhat Hanh back in the 1970s. He wrote it in response to hearing the news about a young refugee girl from Vietnam throwing herself into the sea and drowning after being raped by Thai sea pirates. After meditating all day on his anger in response to hearing this news and questioning what he could do if he was there, this poem was composed. The audio is from 2009 when he recited this poem at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco during an evening of poetry recital and song.

*Listen and Reflect*

The role of faith in America today in 5 minutes



*For Reflection and Dialogue*

Recall a time when another person challenged you to rethink a position or shift your understanding and that challenge became an unexpected invitation to conversion.

Share the experience. Listen to another share the experience. What might it mean for us at this time to be in the midst of the "potluck" of faith in America? What is the work that is ours to do?

*Closing Prayer*

Archbishop Melchideck of North America, Metropolitan of the Palestinian Orthodox Church in American and Abroad

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!

*Closing Song*

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