

Personal - Gratitude Meditation

This prayer from Walter Brueggemann is rich and provocative. It causes us to consider our personal response to God and His creation.

Print out the prayer and use it on a regular basis this month

As you do this you will find words and phrases that resonate and disturb you. Let that process lead you to more prayer and further Bible passages. The prayer may also inspire you to journal around it or produce art and music.

Observe how your thinking and practice changes throughout the month on account of reading it.

On Generosity

On our own, we conclude:
there is not enough to go around

We are going to run short
of money
of love
of grades
of publications
of sex
of beer
of members
of years
of life

We should seize the day
seize our goods
seize our neighbours goods
because there is not enough to go around

And in the midst of our perceived deficit
you come
you come giving bread in the wilderness
you come giving children at the 11th hour
you come giving homes to exiles
you come giving futures to the shut down
you come giving easter joy to the dead
you come – fleshed in Jesus.

And we watch while
the blind receive their sight
the lame walk
the lepers are cleansed
the deaf hear
the dead are raised
the poor dance and sing

We watch
and we take food we did not grow and
life we did not invent and
future that is gift and gift and gift and
families and neighbours who sustain us
when we did not deserve it.

It dawns on us – late rather than soon-
that you "give food in due season
you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing."

By your giving, break our cycles of imagined scarcity
override our presumed deficits
quiet our anxieties of lack
transform our perceptual field to see
the abundance.....mercy upon mercy
blessing upon blessing.

Sink your generosity deep into our lives
that your muchness may expose our false lack
that endlessly receiving we may endlessly give
so that the world may be made Easter new,
without greedy lack, but only wonder,
without coercive need but only love,
without destructive greed but only praise
without aggression and invasiveness....
all things Easter new....
all around us, toward us and
by us

All things Easter new.

Finish your creation, in wonder, love and praise. Amen.

- Walter Brueggemann