

LISTENING ALONGSIDE



ECHOING CHRIST

Lenten Devotions 2017

**Monday,
March 6, 2017**

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.

Flare up like a flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.

By Rainer Maria Rilke
From *Book of Hours, 159*

Prayer

God our creator, you have made each one of us in every part.
Bless us through and through, that we may delight to serve you to the full.
Bless our eyes, that we may discern the beauty you give.
Bless our ears, that we may hear you in the music of sounds.
Bless our sense of smell, that your fragrance may fill our being.
Bless our lips, that we may speak your truth, and sing your joy.
Bless our hands, that they may play, write, and touch as you guide them.
Bless our feet, that they may be messengers of your peace.
Bless our imaginations, that we may be filled with wonder in your truth.
Bless our hearts, that they may be filled with your love.
Bless us through and through, that we may delight to serve you to the full,
through Jesus Christ, who took our nature to make us whole. Amen.

From *A Prayer Book for Australia*, 1995

Isaiah 41:8-10, 13

But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off ;"
do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

For I, the Lord your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, "Do not fear,
I will help you."

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is