



Leaning into the Heart of the Holy

2016 Lenten Devotions

Saturday

February 20, 2016

From *I Promise. Rejoice! A Daily Life Guide*

By Carol Boseman Taylor

My child,

. . .through broken toes and broken dreams and broken hearts

. . .through unmet expectations and unmet goals and seemingly unanswered

prayers

. . .through lonely hearts and lonely lives and aching spirits

. . .through good intentions gone wrong

. . .in tries that failed

. . .through failing to live your best lives

. . .through these things and so much more—

I send you comfort, love, and help, because truly you have no one else and nothing else and nowhere else to turn.

I am present

and faithful

and enduring

and compassionate

and loving . . .always.

For all of this, fall on your knees and confess your sins and cry out to me with a gratitude so deep you cannot fathom its beginning or its end. I am with you through it all. I promise. Rejoice!

Psalm 32:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9

Prayer:

Forgive us Lord for our apathy,
for our lack of courage to speak out.
Forgive us when we walk past and don't offer help.
Forgive us when we get it wrong.

We confess that we are afraid -
we don't want to overcome our hidden doubts and prejudices
in order to be alongside those who are different from ourselves.
We ask that you would lead us into action:
give us strength to be a voice crying for justice and peace.
Help us to step into another person's shoes,
or if they have no shoes
then not to be afraid to take off our own,

peel off our preconceptions and assumptions,
uncurl and spread out our toes, and
tread in their footprints.

May we be a liberating presence
and offer love, compassion and whatever is needed
to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

From The Methodist Church in Britain, *Prayers for Lent and Easter*

Matthew 23:37-39

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”