

LISTENING ALONGSIDE



ECHOING CHRIST

Lenten Devotions 2017

**Sunday,
March 26, 2017**

A Hymn

By Paul Laurence Dunbar

Lead gently, Lord, and slow,
For oh, my steps are weak,
And ever as I go,
Some soothing sentence speak;

That I may turn my face
Through doubt's obscurity
Toward thine abiding-place,
E'en tho' I cannot see.

For lo, the way is dark;
Through mist and cloud I grope,
Save for that fitful spark,
The little flame of hope.

Lead gently, Lord, and slow,
For fear that I may fall;
I know not where to go
Unless I hear thy call.

My fainting soul doth yearn
For thy green hills afar;
So let thy mercy burn--
My greater, guiding star!

Prayer

Our Great Shepherd,
whose voice we know,
who leads us to still waters
and restores our souls through the Spirit of love,
we have no words to thank you for your gentle care.

You have kept us for this day to be your church in this world,
to be a part of it, not apart from it,
to run toward it in love, not from it in fear.

Our God,
do not allow us to sit with folded hands
while a neighbor in the city goes hungry.
Do not let us keep silent
while there is a child in need of a word of encouragement.
Do not let us become comfortable
while there are yet lost sheep of your flock in prisons.
And do not let us withhold our hand
while there are places in this world that can feed a family
for the price of a soft drink.

For by your grace we have been empowered
and in your love you have called us
to be your hands of compassion,
your voice of redemption,
and your arms of love
to a hurting and needy world. Amen.

–Israel Galindo

From *Let Us Pray: Contemporary Prayers for the Seasons of the Church*

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.