

Covenant Program

#2: Brokenness

Light Candle

*At times our own light goes out and is
rekindled by a spark from another person.
Each of us has cause to think with deep
gratitude of those who have lighted the
flame within us.*

- Albert Schweitzer

Check In: “How goes it with your spirit?”

Reading for Reflection: “Monet Refuses
The Operation” – *Lisel Mueller*

Doctor, you say there are no haloes
around the streetlights in Paris
and what I see is an aberration
caused by old age, an affliction.
I tell you it has taken me all my life
to arrive at the vision of gas lamps as
angels,
to soften and blur and finally banish
the edges you regret I don’t see,
to learn that the line I called the horizon
does not exist and sky and water,
so long apart, are the same state of being.
Fifty-four years before I could see
Rouen cathedral is built
of parallel shafts of sun,
and now you want to restore
my youthful errors: fixed
notions of top and bottom,
the illusion of three-dimensional space,
wisteria separate
from the bridge it covers.

What can I say to convince you
the Houses of Parliament dissolves
night after night to become
the fluid dream of the Thames?
I will not return to a universe
of objects that don’t know each other,

as if islands were not the lost children
of one great continent. The world
is flux, and light becomes what it touches,
becomes water, lilies on water,
above and below water,
becomes lilac and mauve and yellow
and white and cerulean lamps,
small fists passing sunlight
so quickly to one another
that it would take long, streaming hair
inside my brush to catch it.
To paint the speed of light!

Our weighted shapes, these verticals,
burn to mix with air
and change our bones, skin, clothes
to gases. Doctor,
if only you could see
how heaven pulls earth into its arms
and how infinitely the heart expands
to claim this world, blue vapor without
end.

Topic: Brokenness

Reflection Questions:

What is brokenness?

When have you felt broken,
spiritually or otherwise?

What broke you? What helped
make you feel “whole” again?

How do you talk about your
experiences of brokenness?

How has your story of
“brokenness” been a blessing or gift to
someone who was suffering with their own
of feelings of brokenness?

How are brokenness and isolation
connected? Does your sense of brokenness
lesson when you are able to find others
who have had similar experiences to you?

When have you felt most “whole”
in your life?

Check-out: Share a word or sentence
about what you are leaving with...or share
a word of appreciation with someone who
said something that you found meaningful.

Business

Closing Words:

“Love Abides” by Barbara Pescan

Often we are found in our grief and
comforted
Calmed by some kindness
Brought alive again by beauty
That catches us undefended.

Even when the sun is most thin and far
Even at the hour the storm is at its height
We can go through
 Renewal nests within sorrow
 Love abides, even beyond anger,
beyond death.

We are held in an embrace invisible but
infinite
Moving with all creation
Between wholeness and fragmentation
Moving always toward the one.

Small joys and great sorrows pass
And we, with steps uncertain, move on
To whatever is next

But continually seen, heard, held
By Life infinite and remote, intimate and
abiding.

Love, do not let us go. Amen.

Extinguish Candle