



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Rhythms of Grace: Keeping Company with Jesus through Scandalous Grace

8:45 a.m. + March 27, 2022

*Love gambles away every gift God bestows.
Without cause God gave us Being; without cause give it back again.
Gambling yourself away is beyond any religion.
Rumi*

God's Scandalous Love

*Love like a waterfall,
Falling on us,
Flooding our hearts with grace and peace.
Healing waters flow,
Flowing on us.
Flooding our hearts with love.*

From Luke 15 with "Love Like a Waterfall"

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

*Every moment of every day God is loving us.
Showers of mercy and waves of forgiveness are covering us.*

A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

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But when he came into himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father.

***Every moment of every day God is loving us.
Showers of mercy and waves of forgiveness are covering us.***

*While the younger son was still far off,
his father saw him and was filled with compassion;
he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.*

*And the father said to his slaves,
'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him;
put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;
for this son of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found!'*

And they began to celebrate.

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"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in.

His father came out and began to plead with him.

But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

Then the father said to him,

*'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
But we had to celebrate and rejoice,
because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and has been found.'*

Love like a waterfall...

Resting in Grace

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. You are in the Love of God. Christ is your Divine Center. There is nothing you need to do. Just be and relax. Center your attention in your heart. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Grace, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Opening Ourselves to Love

"I Am Loved"

*I am not who I was,
I am not who I will be,
I am loved.
I am not what I've done,
I am not what I will do,
I am loved.
I am beautifully broken,
Through my darkness shines your light.
I am loved.*

Listening to Jesus

Luke 6:35-36

*Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.
Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High;
for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.*

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Meditation

Song of Response

"God"

*God to enfold me, God to surround me.
God in my thinking, God in my words.
God in my sleeping, and in my waking.
God in my watching, God in my hopes.
God in my life, God in my lips,
God in my heart and my soul.
In my sufficing, and in my slumber.
In my eternal and living soul.*

Holy Communion

Listening for a Good Word

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.
If you are worshipping online, please text the word **center** to (844) 474-0707
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to (844) 474-0707*

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To further explore themes from this Contemplative Worship service,
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