

KDCCW Opening Prayer and Meditation - January 11, 2020

Lucy Brown - Spirituality Commission Chair

**OUR PARADOXICAL, MYSTERIOUS GOD
AS SEEN ...**

THROUGH SCRIPTURE

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come,
the Almighty.
Revelation 1:8*

*... my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:8*

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O LORD, thou hast searched me and known me!

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!
Psalm 139:1, 23-24*

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For
my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Matthew 11:28-30

Job 38-40:2

Psalm 18, 90-93, 104, 136, 139, 148-150

Isaiah 40:12-26

Daniel 3:23-68

Matthew 28:16-20

Hebrews 12, 13:5b-6

IN WRITINGS OF THE SAINTS

St. Julian of Norwich (14th century)

“And as good as God is, so he is great; and as much as it belongs to his Godhead to be loved, so does it belong to his greatness to be dreaded*; and this reverent dread is the fair courtesy* that is in heaven before God’s face. And greatly as he shall then be known and loved beyond anything we know now, so too will he be dreaded more than ever he is now. Therefore needs must all heaven and earth tremble and quake when the pillars tremble and quake.” (p. 164)

“Flee we to our Lord and we shall be comforted; let us touch him and we will be made clean; cling to him and we will be sure and safe from all manner of peril; for our courteous Lord wills that we be as homely* with him as heart may think or soul desire.

“But we must take care not to be so familiar that we neglect courtesy. For our Lord himself is sovereign homeliness; yet as homely as he is, so is he courteous, and he is utterly courteous. And his blessed creature that will be in heaven with him without end, he wishes that they be like him in all things. And to be perfectly like our Lord, that is our true salvation and our completed bliss.* And if we know not how to do all this, we must beg our Lord to teach us; for it is his own liking and his worship. Blessed may he be!” (pp.168-169)

* glossary meanings (pp. 185-186)

“**dread**: fear, trepidation (as adjective, awe-filled)

courteous: gracious (courtly); in combination with ‘homely’ it is the special quality that Julian experiences in God’s dealings with her, and a defining quality of her message of God’s love.

homely: (adjective) belonging to the home, domestic; hence familiar, It bears the same insight when used in this context as Christ bidding his disciples call his Father Abba, which they immediately knew as the most familiar address possible.

bliss: delight, happiness, joy, blessedness (especially of heaven). As used sometimes, the word retains its root meaning of ‘that by which means we are blessed’: cf. ‘the joy and bliss of his passion’ (ch. 23).”

All quotations are from *Revelation of Love: Julian of Norwich, Translated by John Skinner*, ISBN 0-385-48756-8

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (17th century)

“Having at last attained the long desired happiness of holy profession, it was on that day that my Divine Master willed to receive me for His but in a manner that I find myself incapable of expressing. I will merely say that He adorned me and treated me like a spouse of Thabor. This to me was harder than death, seeing in myself no resemblance to my Spouse, Whom I beheld all torn and disfigured on Calvary. But He

said to me: 'Let Me do everything in its time; for I will have thee now to be the sport of My love, treating thee according to its good pleasure, as children treat their playthings; thou must, therefore, abandon thyself blindly and without resistance, allowing Me to please Myself at thy expense; thou wilt lose nothing thereby.' He promised never again to leave me, saying: 'Be ever ready and disposed to receive Me, for henceforth, I will make My abode in thee that I may be able to hold familiar converse with thee.'

"From that time forward, He allowed me continually to enjoy His divine presence, in a manner which I had not yet experienced. Judging by the effects which this has ever since produced in me, I had never received so great a favor. I saw and felt Him close to me, and heard His voice much better than if it had been with my bodily senses. For in that case I could have diverted my attention and turned away from Him, but I could put no hindrance in the way of this impression which I had no share in producing in myself. It imprinted in me so deep a sense of self-annihilation, that I felt, as it were, sunk and annihilated in the abyss of my nothingness, whence I have not since been able to withdraw myself. Penetrated with respect for this infinite Majesty, I would have wished constantly to remain either prostrate on my face before Him, or on my knees ..."

"He deigned to converse with me sometimes as a friend, at other times as a spouse passionately in love, again as a father who dearly loves His only child, or under other titles. ... He revealed to me two sanctities in Him, the one of love and the other of justice, both rigorous in their degree, which would continually be brought to bear upon me." (pp. 43-45)

"In sum, this little book is a powerful antidote to our natural tendency to reduce, in our own thinking, the Divine Majesty to strictly human dimensions. It is a most enlightening revelation on the true spiritual relationship between the all-holy God and His weak, sin-stained creatures. It is an accurate picture of the absolutely pure, all-consuming fire of the Divine Lover of Souls, which is in fact the essence of the Sacred Heart revelation and devotion." (back cover)

All quotations are from *The Autobiography of Saint Margaret Mary*,
ISBN 978-0-89555-295-2

St. Gertrude the Great (13th, 14th centuries)

"One day when St. John, the well-beloved Apostle of the Heart of Jesus, appeared to St. Gertrude in the splendor of an incomparable glory, 'My most amiable Lord,' said she to Jesus Christ, 'when cometh it that Thou dost present Thy most dear disciple to me – me, an unworthy creature?' 'I wish,' replied Jesus, 'to establish between him and thee an intimate friendship; he shall be that Apostle, to instruct and to correct thee.'

"Then St. John, addressing himself to Gertrude, said: 'Come Spouse of my Master, together let us lay our heads on the most tender bosom of the Lord, in which all

the treasures of Heaven and earth are enclosed.' As the head of Gertrude inclined to the right, and the head of John to the left of the breast of Jesus, the well-beloved disciple continued: 'Here is the Saint of Saints: all good things of earth and Heaven are drawn hither as to their center.'

"Meanwhile the beatings of the Heart of Jesus ravished the soul of Gertrude: 'Well beloved of the Lord,' she asked of St. John, 'did these harmonious beatings, which rejoice my soul, also rejoice yours when you reposed during the Last Supper on the bosom of the Saviour?' 'Yes, I heard them, and my soul was penetrated with their sweetness even to its very center.' 'How comes it, then, that in your gospel you have spoken so little of the loving secrets of the Heart of Jesus Christ?' 'My ministry,' answered the beloved Apostle, 'in those early times of the Church was confined to speaking of the Divine Word, the eternal Son of the Father, some words of deep meaning upon which human intelligence might meditate forever, without ever exhausting their riches; but to these latter times was reserved the grace of hearing the eloquent voice of the Heart of Jesus. At this voice the time-worn world will renew its youth, be roused from its lethargy, and again be inflamed with the warmth of Divine love.'" (pp. 1-2)

Above quotation is from *Love, Peace, and Joy: Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus according to Saint Gertrude*, ISBN 978-0-89555-255-6

St. Faustina (20th century)

"Today I heard these words: **My daughter, be always like a little child towards those who represent Me, otherwise you will not benefit from the graces I bestow on you through them** (*Diary*, 1260).

"Today during Holy Mass, I saw the Infant Jesus near my kneeler. He appeared to be about one year old, and He asked me to take Him in my arms. When I did take Him in my arms, He cuddled up close to my bosom and said, **It is good for Me to be close to your heart.** 'Although You are so little, I know that You are God. Why do You take the appearance of such a little baby to commune with me?' **Because I want to teach you spiritual childhood. I want you to be very little, because when you are little, I carry you close to My Heart, just as you are holding Me close to your heart right now** (*Diary*, 1481).

"My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, You delight in our cuddling close to Your Heart, so You can teach us spiritual childhood. Thank You for the example of St. Faustina."

p. 461 "Cuddling Close to Jesus' Heart," from *Divine Mercy Minutes with Jesus: Praying Daily on Jesus' Words from the Diary of St. Faustina*, ISBN 978-1-59614-193-3

THROUGH A MUSICAL MEDITATIONAL JOURNEY

Though man may strive to go beyond the reef of space,
to crawl beyond the distant glimmering stars,
this world's a room so small within the Master's House,
the open skies but a portion of His yard.

How big is God? How big and wide His vast domain. To try and tell these lips can only start. He's big enough to rule His mighty universe yet small enough to live within my heart.

As winter's chill may cause the tiny seed to fall,
to lie asleep till waked by summer's rain.
The heart grown cold will warm and throb with life anew.
The Master's touch will bring the glow again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yk-LPIADtu0>

How Big Is God? (lyrics above)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggUtlUHIqQQ&list=RDibwxzxER_pY&index=10

Tchaikovsky-Hymn of the Cherubim

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibwxzxER_pY

Benedictus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYnHOBzlyv8>

Benedictus with The Priests

English translation of Latin lyrics: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7QuZ4wo1X4>

I Stand Amazed

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So there we have it: **our paradoxical/mysterious/infinite-in-everything God is also astonishingly intimate with each one of us who desires His friendship ...**

a perfect illustration of last Thursday's (Thursday after Epiphany 2020)

Collect for Mass:

O God, who through your Son raised up your eternal light for all nations,

Grant that your people may come to acknowledge

The full splendor of their Redeemer,

That, bathed ever more in his radiance,

They may reach everlasting glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, for ever and ever.

BONUS: II CORINTHIANS 3:18