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Tuesday of Holy Week

"The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you." John 12:35

Dear Ones,

Time marches on! Not only the days of our physical distancing and social isolation, but also sacred time: Holy Week. We are one day closer to the cross. I invite you to create your own sacred space, 5 minutes in this day, to remember who you are, and whose you are!

Tuesday

- Go to your prayer place, even if it is a chair turned in a certain direction, with your bible close at hand. You might include a candle, a plant, a stone or piece of driftwood, an icon or image of Jesus. Select a few things which, when seeing them, will remind you that you are a beloved child of God.
- Read John 12:20-34 (I include it below for your convenience; however, if you have your own Bible I strongly recommend that you use it. There is nothing more wonderful than holding the Word of God in your hands in a prayerful way).
- Read the passage again, as many times as feels right, as slowly as you can, with these questions in your heart:
 - What speaks to me here?
 - Do I need more information about anything? If so, feel free to look things up online.
 - How was Jesus feeling?
 - Do I connect with him, or any other person in this story in a personal way?
- Ritual: find something in your home which is made of wheat. A slice of bread, a bit of breakfast cereal, a cookie. Hold it in your hands and ponder the fields of winter wheat all around us starting to grow, the farmers, the truckers, the millers, the bakers, the shopkeepers and grocers who move the wheat from field to table. Allow yourself to be part of that great web of being, that starts with rich earth, warm sun and spring rain. Hold these questions from John Wesley in your prayerful heart:
 - Where would you have me go?
 - What would you have me do?
 - What would you have me say, and to whom?
- Close in prayer, ending with The Lord's Prayer (The Prayer of Jesus).

Grace to you, and peace,

Kate

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John 12:20-36

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. 34 The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" 35 Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*