

'Not Without Cost, This Going Deep'

Reflection for Week of April 27, 2020

The Easter season invites us to plunge into the promises of God and explore their deep mysteries with courage and zeal. May our collective journey into those Easter mysteries be an act of love for our wounded world.

Suggested Music: "Inpoured Spirit" – Margaret Rizza ([click here](#)) (*Inpoured Spirit, deep and still, love eternal the world to fill*)

Deep Calls Deeper

In search of the deep story
that unbinds hope,
uncorks imagination,

in search of the deep springs
that never fail,
the deep roots
that hold all you were
and are yet to be,

you will need
laser eyes
to pierce the surface,
to look again, and again,
for the buried gleam.

Listen, read, sing, weep
more than once,
more than twice.
Learn to chew slowly,
savor, sense
deep and subtle flavors.

Don't stop at ground level.
Underneath what seems to be,
burrow deeper,
unearth what's really happening,
find the crevices
where truth nests.

You will need
steel will to carve away
the non-essentials,
to make your peace
with all that is unfinished.

You will need a sturdy heart,
a torch to fire the gloom
as the way plunges deeper.

You will need great stones
to seal the caverns of fear and rage,
the voices of blame and regret.

You will let go
of what you thought absolute
and necessary.
You will need
what you never imagined.

Faith is a well,
a canyon,
an ocean.
It is the Challenger Deep
in the Mariana Trench.

Hold your breath and
dive
head first.

Not without cost,
this going deep.
You may not survive.

Trust you will find
the grace in the flow,
in the letting go.

-- Regina Bechtle, SC
Used with permission



No eye has ever seen and no ear has ever heard
and it has never occurred to the human heart
All the things God prepared for those who love God.

God has shown us these profound and startling realities through the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep mysteries of God.

-- I Corinthians 2:9-10 (Source: The Voice)

For Your Reflection:

Our call in these times includes working to see the deeper invitation that the pandemic is providing. How might we be conscious of the transformation occurring within ourselves, our communities, the nation, and the global community as we live through this time? Reflecting and perhaps journaling with the following questions and, if possible, engaging in contemplative dialogue on them may be one of the most important contributions we can make in this challenging time.

What prevents you from piercing the surface of your life in order to explore its deep springs and roots? What non-essentials might you need to carve away in order to make the journey?

By collectively journeying into the deep, how might you/we contribute to unbinding hope and uncorking imagination that might heal and better hold the wounded world?

Concluding Prayer

May we encourage one another to hold our breath and dive head first into the deep ocean of God's promises. May we find there the grace to live and love fully for the sake of the world. Amen.