

Connecting New

March, 2015

This month I share a poem with a Lenten theme, as well as the context regarding how this poem came to me.

On my week-long retreat last summer, I prayed using my imagination spending time with Jesus during his passion. At the Last Supper, as I attempted to enter into Jesus' suffering as an act of compassion, what I experienced was Jesus looking completely, totally outward from himself into those around him. As I tried to enter into Jesus' suffering, I found myself entering into my own suffering and the suffering of those I love...and that was precisely where I met Jesus.

Later that night in the garden at Gethsemane, before the crowd arrived, Jesus pulled me aside and told me that he was deeply concerned about Judas. He asked me to promise to take care of Judas after the events of the evening unfolded.

Fast-forwarding to Easter Sunday, Mary (Jesus' mother) and I went to visit Judas' family. We were surprised to learn that Jesus had already visited them offering condolences and support.

And so this Lent, I offer the following poem and one question - "Who is Judas for you?"

Whose Heart

Whose heart breaks for Judas,
the first apostle to enter heaven?
Who mourns with his widow and her children,
and puts flowers on his grave?
He was human, like us.
He was loved and did love, like us.
Whose heart breaks for Judas?
With the heart of Christ, mine.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence

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Clarence Heller is a spiritual director, poet, and dreamer whose writing and paintings are inspired through prayerful reflection.

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