



Lenten Prayer Service for Week Two

Leader: Spirit of our Loving, Provident God, bless us as we gather to pray. Be with us on our Lenten journey.

All: Give us hearts that carry hope and believe in peace.

Song: (Your selection)

Reading: adapted from *Providence and Compassion*

“In the New Testament, we encounter Jesus as the compassion of God. Out of that compassion he moved towards others, reemphasizing in the Gospels the injunctions of the Hebrew Scriptures: you are to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself. Jesus modeled great compassion throughout his public ministry. In him we see the Son of God healing people of mental or physical illnesses, consoling the powerful, restoring life to some and forgiving sins of the repentant. He reached out the poor and marginalized and preached a message about the coming reign of God that everyone could access...he made that message available for all to hear.”

“Sharing lessons of providential compassion with my students, I am also able to present an invitation to them: to respond to God’s call through a life lived in right relationship with God, self, others and the universe, reminding them that part of those relationships is caring for others as God is caring for us.”

--Mary Bordelon, CDP

Response: *Abandonment* -- a poem by Leslie Keener, CDP, from *The Art of Providence*

We are living on the pulse of “God,
obedience knit into our very beings,
our breath, our blood, our thoughts flow on,
not ours,
but God’s,
this life.

We sleep, we dream, we wake,
bathed in spirit of unheard voice
beckoning surrender:
each giving over of breath,
each heart imparting blood,
each birth of thought.

We wait, breathless, lifeless, thoughtless,
then...we are gifted,
fresh air...blood...inspiration,
not ours to clasp,
but to give away again.

Nothing belongs;
we are everything,
throbbing on God’s own holy life.
We are the living pulse of God.

Lenten Prayer Service



Week Two

Pause for silent reflection

Reflection questions

- How can we as women or men of Providence choose to show compassion as Jesus did?
- Where and when have I had opportunities to make the message of compassion available?

Closing Prayer: Prayer by Dorothy Lentz, SP+, adapted from *The Art of Providence*

Provident God, you have given us a mission
to plumb the depths of the mysteries of Providence
and of compassionate love.

You have chosen us to be prophets,
to proclaim loudly and visibly God's loving concern for those who suffer.

We are asking your Spirit to show us a way to be sacraments—visible signs—
that will say to a troubled world today,

“Here we are, Providence People, who want to bring you Jesus' message
of hope and concerned love.

We want you to help us know your needs and the best way to serve you.”

Lord Jesus, make us humble, simple, and loving in our search to know your will.
Amen.