



THE GREAT LONGING

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

From Philippians

“For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:13

Reflection

Advent expectation comes by the grace of God at work in me, in us. As I wait in silence, resting in God, I come to know that all is gift. Even my desire for God and my longing for a just and harmonious world flows from God’s own desire.

With mind and heart turned toward God, I discover a great longing for the ways of God to be evident in our world and in my life. I realize anew that I must rely on the Lord to give me the wisdom to discern what is best, the courage to

act, and the humility to implore God to be my strength, to be open to God at work in me. It is Advent, so I stand with expectant yearning for all to be well. All the while, I must remember that I am held in God's embrace and refrain from doubt for my heart's desire, for the More of God is God's doing.

Karl Rahner, SJ wrote of his own heart's desire:

Ask not, doubt not. You have, my heart, already chosen the joy of Advent. As a force against your own uncertainty, bravely tell yourself, "It is Advent of the great God." Say this with faith and love, and then both the past of your life, which has become holy, and your life's eternal boundless future will draw together in the now of this world. For then into the heart comes the one who is Advent, the boundless future who is already in the process of coming, the Lord, who has already come into the time of the flesh to redeem it.



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For Pondering

- What is my heart's deepest desire?
Savor this desire.
 - In what ways do I realize God already present in me?
Give praise and thanks.
 - What is my spiritual need?
Wait for it, for God is at work in me.
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For Prayer

*O Divine Presence,
hold me near, heal my spirit, work in me,
so that all I am, think, say, and do
reflects your love, compassion and presence in me
for the life of our weary and beautiful world.*

Amen!

So be it. Amen.

Come, O Divine Presence. Come!

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