

August 10, 2025



Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

LIVE BY FAITH

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Response for Today's Responsorial Psalm

Blessed are the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

PSALM 33:12b

Reflection

Today's Hebrew Testament reading calls us to live by faith as did Moses. Even in his very advanced age, Moses listened to God, trusted God, and engaged in the relationship they shared. He took risks and moved repeatedly, responding to God's will for him. Each new request was met with the phrase, "**By faith.**" Moses acted. "***Blessed are the people God has chosen to be his own.***"

As Moses matured and learned to live by faith, his relationship with God deepened. He came to know that he was God's own. I would hope that you and

I live by faith and out of our felt sense of belonging to God first and always.

What does belonging to God look and feel like? A felt sense of belonging is an inner reality of recognition that I am rooted in God's great love for me. It is one thing to know intellectually and accept in faith that I am God's own. The subtle, inner knowing is a gentle felt sense of presence that flows from silence, reflection, claiming my own experience of God's abiding. Consciously turning my mind and heart toward God opens me to belonging to God. Being God's own is possible for everyone, though some have not yet realized the truth of this gift.

A sense of belonging and love is often first experienced in human love. Even if this is not deeply felt in one's early life, it is still true. To understand how God loves us unconditionally, it is vital to recognize the spark of divinity within ourselves. Pondering this self-awareness allows us to recognize that we are creations of divine love. It is never a matter of our deserving care and kindness; rather it is the nature of God's great love and mercy. God's love is unconditional, all-permeating, and abiding in my soul, that part of me that is most authentically me.

Knowing myself in relationship with God gradually deepens and takes time. As I ponder my lived experience I recognize God's presence, treasure the relationship which necessitates ongoing discernment of the subtle inner movements of God in the depths of my soul.

There are many verses in scripture that demonstrate God's love. We can see God's tenderness in Hebrew and Christian Testament alike. The Psalmists were particularly articulate regarding God's love. Just look at Psalm 139. Song of Solomon is another great picture of love. God is seen as just and merciful. Our God is tenderhearted and even jealous for the people, desirous that relationship be restored, renewed, treasured.

We are alerted to the secret of deeper experience of God's love in today's Alleluia verse: *"Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come."* All around us God is singing of love, presence, and belonging. Be alert to the possibilities. Wait for it! Look for it!



Heart Drawn in Sand
Photo by photoGraph

For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- Who are the people who have loved me and witnessed God's love for me?
 - What does my experience of God feel like, look like?
 - What are the ways that I nurture, honor, engage relationship with God?
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For Prayer

*God of love and compassion,
may I always recognize your spirit present and at work in the world.
Teach me to listen to your Spirit nudging me closer to you.
Give me a heart that breaks open
whenever a brother or sister turns to me.
Give me a heart that stirs with compassion
when I hear the voices of those in need.
Help me recognize a moment for grace
instead of threat in the world in which I live.
Be my constant companion as I journey through the days of my life*

*as someone who first belongs to You, Loving God.
Amen.*

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