



A Lenten Mosaic - Living In Grace Lent 2020

**Devotion for Thursday,
March 19, 2020**

Gifts of Grace By Joy Lenton

Each day we are alive is a gift,
an unfurling, unfolding kernel
mirrored in tender bud and leaf,
so our hearts remain hopeful
of seeing a beautiful ending.
I long, above all, to recapture
a sense of child-like wonder,
become captivated,
entranced by delight seeded within
as this daily sacred dance begins.
Each moment we linger longer
to appreciate The Moment
will help to peel back layers
to reveal a gift of grace,
to open our eyes,
blinded by excess,
dulled by stress
and wearied by nay sayers.
For we are the revealers
unwrapping the Gift of God,
the Truth-sayers, the Way-sharers,

keepers of Light and Love who
employ a deeper discerning
as we dive expectant into the true,
hopeful, bright-blue waters of each day.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!
Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures for ever.”

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Prayer

Forgive us, O God, for we have sinned. We are inattentive and clumsy with the precious gift of life. In your generosity, you give talents and energy for seeking purpose, relationships for discovering meaning, the earth and its bounty for providing comfort, and time for realizing possibility. Yet, we have not been trustworthy caretakers of your gifts.

We rush too much and rest too little,
take too much and give too little,
talk too much and listen too little,
accuse too much and forgive too little,
judge too much and love too little.

We have chipped and cracked the treasures of life, and we are broken: our relationships are broken, our hearts are broken, our lives are broken. So we bring the shattered pieces to you, Gracious God, trusting in your artistry and care to fashion something beautiful out of the mess we have made, believing that the God who created us from the dust of the earth can re-create us once again. Mold and mend us, O God, that we might form lovely and suitable vessels for carrying your healing grace to all the broken places of our world.
Amen.

-Elizabeth Edwards