



On this feast of *St. Joseph*, our holy patron and model of the contemplative life, we ask for his guidance as we begin our Chapter preparations.

Becoming still...

Opening Song: Holy Mystery, Monica Brown

Holy Mystery
Sacred Presence
All-embracing
Creator God
Gracious Spirit
Womb of all life
Ever gracing
Most wond'rous God
In this moment
In our being
We are one
We are one

Contemplating as One

“Holy One, Holy Oneness” from *If Darwin Prayed: Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics*, Bruce Sanguin

We open now to the mystery of Life, to the Holy One and Holy Oneness, infinitely greater than words can express, and yet the Heart of our hearts and the Mind of our minds, and whose love for us and creation exceeds our capacity to imagine.

We open now to the mystery of Life, to the Holy Oneness, the web of life that holds all beings in intimate embrace, making it possible to distinguish, but never disconnect, any part from the whole, or whole from the parts, making us kin in the kin-dom of life.

We open now to the mystery of Life, knowing this adventure to be a journey back to the ever-present source—discovered in our own depths—and a forward journey toward a new heaven and a new Earth, which is being born through us, and know above all and below all, that this is not a path to God, but a path in God.

Pause and reflect on a word or phrase that moves your heart at this time. Thank God for this grace.



Closing Prayer

Sounds of the Eternal, John Philip Newell

In our mother's womb you knew us, O God. In our father's birth and in the birth of his father were our beginnings. At the inception of time and even before time began your love conceived of our being. As you have known us so may we come to know you. As you prepared our birth so may we make way for fresh birthings of your Spirit. As you sowed all things in love so may your love for all things be born in us.

(all) So may your love be born again in us.
Amen!