**Contemplative Service for Wednesday,**

**March 6, 2024**



*Painting by Nandita Sharma*

*In order that love be fully satisfied, It is necessary that It lower Itself*

*and that It lower Itself to nothingness and transform this nothingness into fire.*

*—Teresa of Avila*

**First reading**: Luke 3:16

John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.

That one will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

**Music**: “Speak Through the Earthquake” by Darlene Franz

https://wisdomchant.bandcamp.com/track/speak-through-the-earthquake

**Second reading**: from the Syrian Clementine Liturgy

O God, Who are the unsearchable abyss of peace, the ineffable sea of love, the fountain of blessings, and the bestower of affection, Who sends peace to those that receive it; open to us this day the sea of Your love, and water us with the plenteous streams from the riches of Your grace. Make us children of quietness, and heirs of peace.

Kindle in us the fire of Your love; sow in us Your fear; strengthen our weakness by Your power; bind us closely to You and to each other in one firm bond of unity; for the sake of Jesus Christ, amen.

**Music**: “Become All Flame” by Darlene Franz

https://wisdomchant.bandcamp.com/track/become-all-flame

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

***Spread the effect of grace***

***of thy Flame of Love***

***over all of humanity.***

***—Elizabeth Kindelmann***

**Communal blessing**

Great Light,

May we find repose staring into the living flame of you. We watch your heat ripple and extend its brightness. Animate or inanimate, you burn. And your burning is the warmth and shelter of peace. Your burning is the center where we find meaning. And we are the fuel of your burning, kindling in you, and sharing that light and heat with the next sojourner in need. Amen.

**Music:** “Leave All Things” by Darlene Franz

<https://wisdomchant.bandcamp.com/track/leave-all-things>

*May peace be a flame that brightens, comforts, and guides you.*