

Prayer Reflection on the Feminine Face of the God who does Justice

Opening Song: We are the Body of Christ by Colleen Fulmer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOKJVxJguug>

Personal Experience



Allow yourself to sit in stillness and be in touch with your experience of being a woman . How have you felt valued / respected in your family/culture/church? Does any experience of discrimination surface in your awareness? Can you relate your experience to that of women from around the world?

Readings for reflection:

Proverbs tells us “Drink the water from your own cistern, fresh water from your own well”(5:15).

"For in truth it must still be regretted that fundamental personal rights are not being universally honoured. Such is the case of a woman who is denied the right and freedom to choose a husband, to embrace a state of life, or to acquire an education or cultural benefits equal to those recognized for men"

(Gaudium et Spes # 29).

“ Since women are becoming ever more conscious of their human dignity, they will not tolerate being treated as mere material instruments, but demand rights, befitting a human person both in domestic and in public life.”

(Pacem in Terris # 41)

Who is She, neither male nor female, maker of all things,
Only glimpsed or hinted, source of life and gender?
She is God.

Mother, sister, lover,; in her love we wake, move, grow,
Are daunted, triumphed and surrender.

Who is She, mothering her people, teaching them to walk?
Lifting weary toddlers, bending down to feed them?

She is Love,

Crying in a stable, teaching from a boat,
Friendly with the lepers, bound for crucifixion.

Who is She, sparkle in the rapids, coolness of the well,
Living power of Jesus flowing from the Scriptures?

She is Life,

Water, wind and laughter, calm, yet never still,
Swiftly moving spirit. singing in the changes.

-Brian Wren

(Taken from “She Who Is” by Elizabeth Johnson)

Share what struck you about the readings either symbolically or with words.

As we conclude we remember that we stand on the shoulders of the women who went before us. We we pray:

A Litany of Women for the Church

Dear God, creator of women in your own image,
born of a woman in the midst of a world half women,
carried by women to mission fields around the globe,
made known by women to all the children of the earth,
give to the women of our time
the strength to persevere,
the courage to speak out,
the faith to believe in you beyond
all systems and institutions
so that your face on earth may be seen in all its beauty,
so that men and women become whole,
so that the church may be converted to your will
in everything and in all ways.

We call on the holy women
who went before us,
channels of Your Word
in testaments old and new,

to intercede for us
so that we might be given the grace
to become what they have been
for the honor and glory of God.

Saint Esther, who pleaded against power
for the liberation of the people, –Pray for us.
Saint Judith, who routed the plans of men
and saved the community,
Saint Deborah, laywoman and judge, who led
the people of God,
Saint Elizabeth of Judea, who recognized the value
of another woman,
Saint Mary Magdalene, minister of Jesus,
the first evangelist of the Christ,
Saint Scholastica, who taught her brother Benedict
to honor the spirit above the system,
Saint Hildegard, who suffered interdict
for the doing of right,
Saint Joan of Arc, who put no law above the law of God,
Saint Clare of Assisi, who confronted the pope
with the image of woman as equal,
Saint Julian of Norwich, who proclaimed for all of us
the motherhood of God,
Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who knew the call
to priesthood in herself,
Saint Catherine of Siena, to whom the pope listened,
Saint Teresa of Avila, who brought women's gifts
to the reform of the church,
Saint Edith Stein, who brought fearlessness to faith,
Saint Elizabeth Seton, who broke down boundaries
between lay women and religious
by wedding motherhood and religious life,
Saint Dorothy Day, who led the church
in a new sense of justice,

Mary, mother of Jesus,
who heard the call of God and answered,
Mary, mother of Jesus,
who drew strength from the woman Elizabeth,
Mary, mother of Jesus,
who underwent hardship bearing Christ,
Mary, mother of Jesus,
who ministered at Cana,
Mary, mother of Jesus,
inspired at Pentecost,
Mary mother of Jesus,

who turned the Spirit of God
into the body and blood of Christ, pray for us. Amen.

— Joan Chittister, OSB

Concluding song: Choose Life Colleen Fulmer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ls029Ae9MU>



Image: Morgan Sessions. Unsplash