

Prayer of Confession

From lack of reverence for truth and beauty;
from a calculating or sentimental mind;
from going along with mean and ugly things;

Holy One, deliver us.

From cowardice that dares not face truth;
laziness content with half-truth;
or arrogance that purports to know it all;

Holy One, deliver us.

From artificial life and worship;
from all that is hollow or insincere;
from trite ideals and cheap pleasures;
from mistaking vulgarity for humour;

Holy One, deliver us.

From being pompous, or rude;
from cynicism about others;
from intolerance or cruel indifference;

Holy One, deliver us.

From being satisfied with things as they are,
in the church or in the world;
from failing to share your outrage about injustice;

Holy One, deliver us.

From selfishness,
self-indulgence,
or self-pity;

Holy One, deliver us.

From token concern for the poor,
for lonely or loveless people;
from confusing faith with good feeling,
or love with wanting to be loved;

Holy One, deliver us.

For everything in us that may hide your light;

Holy One, light of life, forgive us. Amen.

Celebrating God's Presence,
Copyright © 2000 The United Church Publishing House
All Rights Reserved.
All materials, except those otherwise marked, may be freely copied for use in public worship in The United Church of Canada.

For other parties, no part of this book may be photocopied, reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted without the written permission of The United Church of Canada.

No words

There are no words
for the things that break us open,
strip us naked in the glare;
for birth and death,
for joy and grief,
for the madness of the lost
or for the lightning of love.

There are no words for the lash of beauty
cutting without warning from sky or land,
stealing the breath;
or for the stark cold of midwinter midnight
alone in the desert of the self
hollow with dread;
or for the lightning of love
sudden or slow,
blue flame piercing mind and bone.

We need words
whose power in the throat
rises like the welling of ancient water
from the roots of the earth,
wise with the secrets of fire and stone;
words for what lives
in the eyes of the newborn
or the dying or the mad;
words for the breaking open,
for the glancing merciless terror
and the unrelenting glory;

words for the lightning of love.

Anne LeDressay

Celebrating God's Presence,
Copyright © 2000 The United Church Publishing House
All Rights Reserved.
All materials, except those otherwise marked, may be freely copied for use in public worship in The United Church of Canada.

For other parties, no part of this book may be photocopied, reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted without the written permission of The United Church of Canada.