

Father Dyer UMC Sample Readings

I Corinthians 13

If we speak in the tongues of human beings and of angels, but have not love, we are noisy gongs or clanging cymbals. And if we have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if we have faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, we are nothing. If we give away all that we have, and if we deliver our bodies to be burned, but have not love, we gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; is not jealous or boastful; is not arrogant or rude. Love does insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in the wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When we were children, we spoke like children, thought like children, reasoned like children, when we became adults, we gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now we know in part; then we shall understand fully, even as we have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Traditional Native American Prayer

O Great Spirit

Whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us!
We are small and weak, we need your strength and wisdom.

Let us ever walk in beauty, and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make our hands respect the things you have made and our ears sharp to hear your voice.
Let us learn the lessons you have hidden in every tree and rock.

We seek strength, not to be greater than our sisters and brothers, but to fight our greatest enemy—ourselves.

Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame.

An Apache Benediction

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other;

Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other;

Now there is no more loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other;

Now there are two persons, but there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling and enter into the day of your life together, and may your days be good and long upon the earth.

“The Prophet” Kahil Gibran

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.
Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of Love;
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone.
Even as the string of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.
And stand together yet not too near together;
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.