



*We light a light  
In the name of God who creates life  
In the name of the Savior who loves life  
In the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life*

*Musical Reflection ~ [Beautiful Things](#) by Gungor*

*Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.*

—Joel 2.12-13

### **Rend Your Heart** *A Blessing for Ash Wednesday*

To receive this blessing, all you have to do is let your heart break.  
Let it crack open.  
Let it fall apart so that you can see its secret chambers,  
the hidden spaces where you have hesitated to go.

Your entire life is here, inscribed whole  
upon your heart's walls: every path taken or left behind,  
every face you turned toward or turned away,  
every word spoken in love or in rage,  
every line of your life you would prefer to leave in shadow,  
every story that shimmers with treasures known  
and those you have yet to find.

It could take you days to wander these rooms.  
Forty, at least.

And so let this be a season for wandering,  
for trusting the breaking,  
for tracing the rupture that will return you

to the One who waits, who watches,  
who works within the rending  
to make your heart whole.

—Jan Richardson

*Musical Reflection ~ [When I Survey the Wondrous Cross/Jesus Paid it All/I Surrender All ...](#)*

*Please turn over .....*

A wilderness beckons us: a desert, a barren place,  
yet a place of blessing and discovery.  
Jesus, steady companion, accompany us,  
as we enter the hurtful places, the frightening places,  
the dangerous places deep within us.  
Jesus, our wise and welltraveled guide,  
lead us into this emptiness,  
where all will fall away,  
and we will have nothing but you.  
Walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death,  
where we shall be raised, and drink of deep springs. Amen.

*Closing Musical Reflection ~ [River of Grace](#) by Christy Nockels*

*Song playlist on Spotify [“Lent Contemplative”](#) by Ninabeth Metcalf*