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From the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

January Message from the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

We began our December Women's Morning of Reflection, Conversation and Peace with this prayer, and it seems fitting to offer it up as a morning devotion as we begin a New Year:

Hidden God, ever present to me,
may I now be present to you,
 attentive to your very word,
 attuned to your inspirations,
 alert to your touch.
Empty me that I may be filled with you alone.¹

The following prayer also struck me, and so I share it as well:

Lord, teach us to see Thee
Not just in stained glass
But in stained lives;
Not in Gothic arches,
But in arthritic fingers.
Lord, teach us to hear Thee
Not just in hymns of praise,
But in sneers of disdain.
Lord, let us know Thee and love Thee
In all things as Thou lovest us –
For Thou lovest
The self-seeking as well as the unselfish;
The vindictive as well as the kind,
The sinners as well as the saints.

¹ Ms. Patricia B. Clark, page 222, *Women's Uncommon Prayers*

Thou lovest even me, Lord.²

In the coming year, may we all find ourselves even more present to God in every moment, and strengthened in our service of God at St. Elizabeth's and in the world at large. Happy New Year!

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² The Reverend Virginia C. Thomas, page 43, *Women's Uncommon Prayers*