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From the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

January Message

We read this poem by Edward Carpenter together in our first December moms gathering, and although it struck me as an appropriate poem for Advent, perhaps the message of quiet will guide those of us making New Year's resolutions as well...enjoy. May your New Year be peace-filled and may you rest in God's abiding love.

The Lake of Beauty ***Edward Carpenter***

Let your mind be quiet, realizing the beauty of the world,
and the immense, the boundless treasures that it holds in store.
All that you have within you, all that your heart desires,
all that your Nature so specially fits you for—
that or the counterpart of it waits embedded in the great Whole, for you.
It will surely come to you.
Yet equally surely not one moment before its appointed time
will it come. All your crying and fever and reaching out of
hands will make no difference.
Therefore do not begin that game at all.
Do not recklessly spill the waters of your mind
in this direction and in that,
lest you become like a spring lost and dissipated in the desert.
But draw them together into a little compass, and hold them still, so still;
And let them become clear, so clear—so limpid, so mirror-like;
at last the mountains and the sky shall glass themselves in peaceful beauty,
and the antelope shall descend to drink and to gaze at her reflected image,
and the lion to quench his thirst, and Love himself shall come and bend over and catch his own
likeness in you.

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