

THE
Quiet Collection
20  21

Day 10: Blessing

We've come to the end again. We've come back to the beginning.

We always need a blessing and a benediction, a challenge and a hope.

We always need to be comforted and disrupted and comforted again.

Thanks be to God who is the father, Jesus who is the Word, and Spirit who is from the beginning.

Now receive the benediction, the blessing, the challenge, and the hope:

As certainties have shaken loose this year, may you believe in your bones that the unshakable things will remain strong in time. And when you can't believe that, know that someone is believing on your behalf.

As the gauzy shadows of loss, of questions, of confusion, or disappointment drapes low across your soul, may you discern the difference between a breaking apart and a breaking open to make room for something new.

If there is absence at your table, may it be not emptiness, but may it be held space, saving a seat for hope. As you wait for clarity, friendship, affirmation, or next steps, may God bring peace and comfort as you hold everything up to the light.

Whether we're carrying the heaviest load or if we're counting down to something good — a celebration, a starting over, or a second chance — may we come to terms with what we've lost, make sideways peace with what remains, and continue to trust the Word who is Jesus even when we are in the shadows. Even when we are in the dark.

What you hold at an ending will be brought forth into every beginning — not because of a keepsake or a memory box, but because of the person you have become and are becoming.

Like Mary, you're pondering, considering, and treasuring up. Like Jesus, you're growing and being formed and none of it is wasted.

In our celebrations, our daily errands, our low-key disappointments, our gaping heartbreaks, may God mother and father you in ways you don't even know you need. May you receive in your spirit the holy equivalent of a turned down sheet, a nightlight in the hallway, a kind good night after a long day.

May the Spirit of God be for you the light of divine presence even when everything is the worst.

The world is broken, but Christ has come. Light will win. Hope will live on and on and on.

Now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Merry Christmas.