

Prayer Corner 23

Our Prayer for Compassion

By Regina Williams



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Here we are after Christmas, after the lovely, lilting, uplifting carols, the candlelight, the celebration, back to the reality of wars, a world divided, our country divided. But we don't want that, we want the sweet baby in the manger for us to adore.

According to his prophets, God at times was dismayed by his world, once perfect, now broken by his disobedient children.

Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9

God's Compassion Despite Israel's Ingratitude

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.
The more I called them, the more they went from me;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals and offering incense to idols.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love.
I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.

How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.
I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim;
For I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.

Our Prayer for Compassion

O God, you are holy and no mortal,
but you argue with yourself as we do.
Your compassion and tenderness are like ours for our babies.
Or is it: our compassion and tender love are like yours,
our Mother, our Father?
So, we yearn to be good and loving, our spirits merged with you,
who are Goodness and Love.
Unite us once more, Brother Jesus,
As in the garden where we walked and talked.
Lead us again with cords of love, Father-Mother,
Bend down to us and feed us, your children.
Amen