



continuing the journey of

# transforming grace:

transforming practice

September 1, 2024

## Opening Song

Imagine | John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us, only sky

Imagine all the people  
Livin' for today, Ah

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion, too

Imagine all the people  
Livin' life in peace, You

REF: You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world, You

REF

## Opening Prayer

Prayers for Discernment | Author Unknown,  
Xavier University

God of silence and God of all sound, help me to listen.

Help me to do the deep listening to the sounds of my  
soul, waiting to hear your soft voice calling me deeper  
into you.

Give me attentive ears that begin to separate the  
noise from the sounds that are you;

you who have been speaking to me and through  
me my whole life, for so long that you can seem like  
background noise.

Today help me hear you anew.

## Scripture

1 James: 22

"Be doers of the word and not merely hearers"



## Listen and Learn

Politicization of Music | John Morris Russell

## For Reflection and Dialogue

This week, be attentive to the music and images that  
are being used in the current political campaigns to  
influence, communicate and convince.

In your memory or with the help of technology, listen  
to some of the music that has influenced your political  
action or response.

How has music connected you to issues, movements,  
campaigns or actions?

Find one song that brings forth the feeling of being  
connected to others in pursuit of a vision, a hope or  
an aspiration. Share that song and its meaning with a  
thought partner or small group.

Listen and pay attention to the ways you are stirred by  
the music behind the images you experience.

## Closing Thought

"Politics can be strengthened by music, but music has  
a potency that defies politics" - Nelson Mandela

Let us listen to the silence and to the music.

May we be the instruments of peace,  
breaking down the walls of division and creating the  
harmony of presence in broken places.

Let us speak the lyrics of love.

## Closing Song

This Land is Your Land | Pete Seeger