

## **Friday after the Second Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2023**

Recommended readings: p. 446, "Nov 4, 2008," pp. 447-448, "Mother and Son," pp. 196-202, "Politics" (part one)

On page 448, Jason Reynolds concludes his account of spending Election Day 2008 with his mother. "Close to midnight. It had been a long day of standing, then sitting, and now my mother was lying in bed. Instead of spending this moment in a bar with friends, I lay next to her, my arms wrapped around her torso like a chrysalis while watching her transform. And like an apparition, the first Black president took the stage, along with his Black wife and two Black daughters. I could feel my mother's blood. Pressed my ear to her neck and could hear her heart. Blood caught in her throat and she broke open and wept the tears of the family members I'd never know, and for ones yet to come. But her heart seemed to do an opposite thing. It seemed to slow. To beat in rest. A peaceful thump in my ear. A metronome of new potential. And no matter how short-lived it would all be, I knew, without a doubt, it was a sound I'd need to remember."

*But let justice roll down like a river, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream*  
(Amos 5:24)

On the north wall of the sanctuary where I worship hangs a painting commissioned for the 2009 ReconcilingWorks National Assembly. It shows a strong flow of water pouring down from beneath the Dove and streaming over the outstretched hands of those who appeal to the Dove for justice. Those hands are neither Black nor white, old nor young, Jew nor Gentile. They show no gender, age, orientation, race, ethnicity. They are simply human hands. They receive justice through the Holy Spirit, gushing out of God's bountiful love. Near them in the painting are several dancing figures, celebrating the advent of God's justice. They have not been stopped by hatred, unjust law, gerrymandered election zones or closed polling places. They have not been deterred by the many devices those in power have implemented to make some feel "less" or "other," or in our time, to deny them the right to vote or call their votes and their bodies "illegal."

### **Prayer**

God of justice, strengthen in us the will to help bring your kingdom to us here on earth, to love mercy and do justice as we walk humbly with you. Teach us to love one another and work for the empowerment of each of your children. Help us rejoice in the times where your love and your justice have overcome our selfish attempts to hold power to the detriment of others. Amen.