

# Lent 1999: In The Belly of Paradox

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**Seekers Church:**

**A Christian Community**

*In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour*

Lent 1999

## In The Belly of Paradox

### Silent Reflection

*Awakening desire, they make a place  
where pain can enter;  
that's how growing happens.  
They bring suffering with their laughter,  
and longings that had slept and now awaken  
to weep in a stranger's arms.*

Ranier Maria Rilke, Book of Hours,

### Prelude

### Call To Worship

Leader: God hungers for us, calling  
"Come and find me!"

Community: A cry in the wilderness,

a song in the city,  
a sigh in the night,  
a shout in the morning.

Leader: Rejoice, for God is among us!

Unison: Let us sing and praise the One who calls.

## **Invocation**

## **Hymn**

## **Word for the Children**

## **Silence**

## **Chant**

Unison: More than those who watch for the morning,  
My soul waits for God.

## **Silence**

## **Prayers**

### **Common Confession**

Leader: God of laughter as of tears,  
shake us awake.

Teach us to laugh at ourselves:  
at our petty preoccupations,  
at our black-draped piety.

Voice 1: Teach us to laugh through hurt and adversity  
until our laughter lures us deep  
beneath the terrors without names,  
beneath the questions without answers,  
beneath the pain without relief.

Voice 2:            Teach us to laugh through uncertainty and fear  
until our laughter lures us deep  
to the love unused,  
to the strength unspent,  
to the dream unriskened.

Unison:            Shake us awake, O Great One,  
until we are lured into the belly of paradox,  
safe in the terror of Your presence.

## **Individual Prayers of Confession**

### **Assurance**

Leader:            The way of the cross is also the way toward  
peace,  
toward the center where contradictions converge.

The cross speaks the greatest paradox of all:  
To live we have to die.

The good news in Christ  
is that there is healing  
in the depth of God's laughter.  
Amen.

## **Prayers of the Community**

### **Hymn**

### **The Word**

### **First Lesson**

### **Silence**

### **Gospel Lesson**

### **Sermon**

## Silent Reflection

## Offering

*The first Sunday of each month we switch to a Communion Liturgy here.*

## Shared Reflections

## Announcements

## Hymn

## Benediction

Leader:                Go now, to lives filled with laughter and with pain,  
knowing that God is with us in the dark and in the light,  
in our abundance and in our emptiness,  
in every moment of our lives. Amen.

### Liturgy Resources

**Chant:** From Psalm 130

**Confession:** From Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace

**Assurance:** Parker Palmer, The Promise of Paradox, pp 37-38.