



# Deepening Circle

For Prayer and Reflection

Advent Christmas 2025

**"Lord, when was it that we saw you?..."** —Matthew 25.37

Until we see the throne of the Holy One rightly we see nothing. It's an upturned five-gallon bucket on a street corner, a bed in the locked ward, a cot in a refugee camp. A cell. A wheelchair. This is where the Mystery abides. The burning Sun of Life, the hand that spins the universe, the uncontrollable Heart of Grace, will not be confined to the familiar, the comfortable, the esteemed.

A pretty face, elegant mastery, even wisdom, these are distractions, little baubles outside the temple. The Ferocious Glory will not be packaged. Look in the yellowed eyes, the matted hair. Listen to the strange accent, the halting speech, or mangled speech, or none. The Infinite One is there.

Maybe hardest of all, look at that annoying co-worker, the boss from hell. No one, no one, is exempt. No matter whose presence you are in, you are always as close to the throne of heaven as you think you are.

Pastor Steve

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## DEEPENING COMMUNION WITH GOD IN A CIRCLE OF RELATIONSHIP

coming together, attuning to the field of silence in-between, thinking contemplatively, each listening reverently, each offering her 'widow's mite,' together inviting a depth of movement and wisdom to arise between us, tapping into a deeper part of the Self, words emerging that are fresh, new, almost lyrical; speaking from unknowing, trusting the living presence of Spirit within and among us ...

**Song: You're the Light of God** by Michael Gott

*I see you in all your wonder and your radiance. And I know who you are. Yes. I know who you are. You're the light of God.* I know you struggle. I know you're in pain in ways I'll never understand. But I won't go away in sunshine or rain. I'll be there holding your hand.

We all need help. We've all been in fear. Sometimes we just cannot see. When the song of your soul is too faint to hear, will you listen to me? I know your name. I know your light. When you're lost, lost out in the darkness, will you trust my sight? Trust me.



**The Practice of Love that Creates Communion**

In your prayer, allow the Sacred Heart of Love to embrace you in your wholeness, include your imperfections and failures.

Again and again, embrace the full reality of who you are and extend that to every dear neighbor in every encounter.



*Become Love*

If You want to know God, become love.  
If you want to know others, become love.  
If you want to know yourself, become love.

And if you want to know Love, forget all  
you thought you knew or needed to know,  
and become Love.

Sweeney & Burrows, *Meister Eckhart's Book of Secrets*