**A Diversity of Gifts**

**Gathering Song Suggestion:** The Consensus Statement by Kathy Sherman

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 translation from *The Message*

God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:

wise counsel

clear understanding

simple trust

healing the sick

miraculous acts

proclamation

distinguishing between spirits

tongues

interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. The Holy One decides who gets what, and when.

**Response to the Reading:** Dueling Hafiz Poems… My Brilliant Image and Sometimes I Say…

One day the sun admitted  
I am just a shadow.  
I wish I could show you  
The infinite incandescence  
That has cast my brilliant image!  
I wish I could show you,  
When you are lonely or in darkness,  
The Astonishing Light  
Of your own Being!

Sometimes I say to a poem,  
“Not now,  
can’t you see I am bathing!”

But the poem usually doesn’t care  
And quips,

“Too bad, Hafiz,  
No getting lazy -  
You promised God you would help out

and He just came up with this  
new tune.”

**Heart sharing:**

* What are the gifts that you bring to this ministry and to the world around you?
* In what ways do you actively use these gifts to advance the mission of your ministry, “that all may be one”?
* Turn to another person and affirm the a gift that you see in them, and if you can, describe an example of how you have seen them use it? Let this person offer the same for you.

**Closing Prayer:**

Was Puccini’s  
music for his ears alone?  
Was Starry Night only for Van Gogh’s eyes?

 Are discerners of spirits  
better than those who prophesy?  
Is it better to be a healer than a preacher?  
Was Mother Teresa more important  
than the Jesuit brother who  
held the door?

 Is red a better than blue?

 All gifts are  
from the same Spirit.  
They are each a part of the whole  
and given to each of us for each other  
or for the common good.

Holy One, help us understand…  
Thank you for all  
gifts.

Thank you for mine. May I offer them freely.

Amen.

~ written by Anne Osdieck