



Dearly Beloved Friends:

I have been thinking a lot lately about the courage and beauty of vulnerability. We have such a difficult time admitting our brokenness or our failures. And yet, one of the things about our faith and that which we confront in the wilderness of Lent, is that God loves us no matter what...no matter what!

Lent becomes a time then to gather up the fragments of our lives, wounds, scars, and fractures and re-assemble them, re-cognize them, and re-concile them. What results may be not just a new wholeness but a holiness which shines with the light of God.

The Japanese art form known as kintsuki or kintsukori is an intriguing and inspiring example of this. Taking broken ceramics, literally, and reassembling them with a gold glowing glue renders objects newly formed and more beautiful than originally. Like scar tissue, these reconfigured forms are stronger than before broken.

To ponder this art form is to ponder the brokenness of the world and each other. To ponder this art form is to embrace our wounds, our imperfections and our separations from God and imagine them all bound up by the grace and love of God. The golden glue is the eternal tether of God woven through our lives.

We are like that. We are more beautiful to each other and to God when we allow our cracks and wounds to become part of our beloved wholeness and holiness.

My hope for us this Lent is to realize the incredible hope which our faith offers. My hope for us is to become more open, more receptive to the love of God which binds our wounds and forgives our transgressions. My hope for us is that we can imagine God's healing grace gathering up our fragments and creating a beautiful new form, encouraged, resilient and divine!

Blessings flow,
Martha

P.S. This is always a challenging time of year for parishes financially with vacations and snow and spotty attendance, and we would appreciate it if you would catch up on your pledges in the event you have fallen behind. Thank you for your stewardship!