

Trinity Devotion 21

Week of January 10, 2021

Fred Young

Beginning with Beloved

Jan Richardson

Begin here: Beloved. Is there any other word needs saying,
any other blessing could compare with this name, this knowing?

Beloved.

Comes like a mercy to the ear that has never heard it.
Comes like a river to the body that has never seen such grace.

Beloved.

Comes holy to the heart aching to be new.

Comes healing to the soul wanting to begin again.

Beloved.

Keep saying it and though it may sound strange at first,
watch how it becomes part of you, how it becomes you,
as if you never could have known yourself anything else,

as if you could ever have been other than this:

Beloved.

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My adolescent years were not kind to me. As if my changing body
and pimply face weren't enough, my rapidly plumping body set me aside
from my thinly shaped peers. Growing up in a small town where everyone

is known by name, increased my anxieties about my physical appearance. Often, I relied upon the circle of drama and choir friends who showered me with acceptance. Together, we were a band of misfits, a group where all were included; a place where all felt loved.

Jan Richardson's poetry often provides comfort for me, which is why I have relied heavily upon her words over the past year. Perhaps it's because she writes from her own experiences of trauma and grief; a place full of reminders that she too remains, God's beloved. Because our life's journeys vary, I am sure this poem touches each of us in different ways. How do you need to be reminded that you are God's beloved today?

Things to Consider:

1. Re-read the poem, sit with it and journal your experiences of God's love.
2. What does it feel like to move through the water into the open air and hear the voice of God claiming you?

Prayer: O God, send your Spirit upon us as a daily reminder that we will always remain your Beloved Children. Amen.

