

*A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give; to make our life an offering to God that all may live.*

—Frank von Christerson

This particular bit from a favorite hymn always takes on deeper meaning for me during Lent. As we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem, we know the journey leads to a cross on a hill, to the ultimate self-offering of the One who loved us enough to become one of us, to show us how to love one another.

When I consider that cross, that self-offering love and our response to it, I hear Sister Joan Chittister’s challenge to “go through life reclaiming the planet an inch at a time until the Garden of Eden grows green again.”

None of us can do it all. But every single one of us can do an inch. The world that summons us with a deep yearning for hope, peace, justice, healing is the garden God charges us to tend as stewards of creation, as beacons of God’s love, compassion and healing. It is where we are called, in Jesus’ name, to offer our lives so others may live abundantly. It is where we are challenged to work together to heal a hurting world.

As we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem, what inch of the garden can you reclaim today?

—Susan Russell