



## Wednesday Prayer

### Palm/Passion Sunday – Kintsugi

**How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you have wrought for those who take refuge in you! You hide them in the secret place of your presence from the conspiracies of man; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues. Blessed be the Lord, for he has made marvelous his lovingkindness to me in a besieged city. O love the Lord, all you his godly ones. The Lord preserves the faithful and fully recompenses the proud doer. Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the Lord.**

**Psalm 31:19-21, 23-24**

*Kintsugi* is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with a special glue containing gold or silver lacquer, making the pieces beautiful once again. Centuries ago, Japanese craftsmen created an “aesthetic means of repair” for broken stoneware and pottery. *Kintsugi* “treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise,” making it more beautiful for having been broken.

Because of the imagery displayed in the *Kintsugi* process—a broken and useless vessel being repaired to become more beautiful than before—sexual violence survivor Jennifer Thompson Canino uses the art of *Kintsugi* as an exercise in her *Healing Justice* workshops for rape victims and falsely accused individuals who have been exonerated of sexual violence crimes. Whether used in this setting or related ones, the process can be immensely healing.

During Lent, images of Christ broken, and Christ risen to glory remind me of the pottery before and after the *Kintsugi* process. God has “stored up” goodness beyond imagining for those who may feel like pieces of broken pottery, useless by all human accounts. God will keep those damaged by sexual trauma safe “in the secret place of God’s presence,” from the evil others may intend for them. The Lord gives them shelter “from the strife of tongues,” or the accusations of those who don’t know the worth of God’s children (which is to say, all of us!). God “has made marvelous his lovingkindness” to the vulnerable, the hurting, and those just beginning to heal. Our cities are “besieged” with evil doers in our modern, secular world, but God has promised to save and protect us from all wrongdoing.

This Lent, let’s use the image of the broken vessel to remind us of Christ crucified, and the pottery repaired with the *Kintsugi* method as Christ risen and glorified. For someone who has experienced exploitation or trafficking, or an especially vulnerable teen, sharing the Christ story through the *Kintsugi* story might just make a life more beautiful and hopeful.

**Jesus, help us to be strong and let our hearts take courage. Most of all keep our eyes on you, Lord of healing and hope! Amen.**

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