

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

FEBRUARY 2013



A Beautiful Sunrise at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe - photo taken by Rev. Irene Pak on the Stone Church Snow Trip

MOVIE REVIEW: WHAT'S IN YOUR PLAYBOOK?

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

On the evening of Feb. 24, moviegoers, like me, will be glued to their television sets, awaiting the sight of the ceremonial Academy Award envelopes being ripped open - and the answers revealed - for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, and more.

I'm currently trying to see all of the films in the Best Picture category. Admittedly, I've seen only three out of the nine nominees so far, but I'm hopeful. Nevertheless, at this point, if I had to venture an uninformed guess, I would watch out for the film, *Silver Linings Playbook*.

Surprised? I'm sure many of you thought I would pick *Lincoln* (since Lincoln's birthday is coming up Feb. 12, and I love the actor, Daniel Day-Lewis, who portrays our 16th president).



Ken on a recent trip to Asilomar
(photo: Heather Henry)

Still, *Silver Linings Playbook* has a soul-stirring message that any preacher can't help but embrace - acceptance - that is, acceptance

of our broken moments in the past, acceptance of family and friends despite their outbursts and obsessions, and acceptance of the imperfections that we all carry inside us.

In my humble opinion, the message of *Silver Linings Playbook* is the message of Jesus.

Indeed, throughout Jesus' ministry, how many times did he offer acceptance to those who felt disgrace and shame? Many times.

While others feared touching the leper and the unclean, Jesus reached out to offer physical, spiritual and emotional healing. He restored them to community.

While others brooded over his teachings, Jesus went out of his way to welcome the poor, the outcast and the possessed.

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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES 6:30 AM OR 6:30 PM, FEB. 13

Keeping in the spirit of last year's Ash Wednesday, members and friends of Stone are invited to attend a brief service of music, prayer and the imposition of ashes, on this year's Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013.



If you're on your way to work, or are generally a morning person, stop by the Sanctuary for a brief service at 6:30 am, then join other morning worshippers for a cup of coffee or tea afterward at Elva's Coffee Stop.

Of course, if this seems too early, come to an evening service at 6:30 pm, then stay for choir rehearsal. Either way, the time of Ash Wednesday at Stone should be easily etched in our minds ... just remember ... 6:30. - Ken Henry

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2013 HOPES TO HELP WOMEN OF STONE "DISCOVER OUR PURPOSE"

The setting is rural – a comfortable retreat center surrounded by farms and ranches. The snack table



is overflowing. Women of all ages are laughing and singing, discussing and sharing, meditating and praying, looking inward, looking outward. There's

a mix of programmed group time and unstructured free time. It's the 2013 Stone Church Women's Retreat.

Stone Church's annual Women's Retreat will take place the weekend of March 15 - 17, at the St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista.

The leader for the retreat will be our own Rev. Irene Pak. The weekend will be a time to get to know Irene better and to become better known by her.

"Please join us," Irene says. "Our theme will revolve around wisdom and stories that cross generations. Come, rest, be renewed, and deepen relationships with other Stone women you know and those you want to know better!"

Pastor Emerita Marge Palmer will join Irene to help us explore the ministry to women and ministry by women at Stone Church. Bring your ideas of how this ministry could be enhanced.

"By great design, God has brought the women of Stone together for a purpose," says Maureen Chandler. "The 2013 Women's Retreat will set the stage and foundation for the coming year, in which we will seek to discover what that purpose might be and how each gifted woman fits into God's plan for our unique church community."

(continued on page 5)

DOREEN DER-MCLEOD TO PREACH AT STONE CHURCH ON "CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY," FEB. 10

Doreen Der-McLeod will preach at Stone Church on Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, Feb. 10.

Doreen is first-generation Chinese-American, but her family has been in San Francisco for



four generations, with her grandfather being the first to immigrate to America. Doreen was born in San Francisco, but grew up in San Mateo. She started participating in the Cameron House youth program in high school when she was introduced to it by a friend from Chinese School.

Doreen attended UC Berkeley, where she earned a BA in Biological Sciences. After graduation, she served as a VISTA volunteer in eastern Kentucky for a year and then returned to San Fran-

cisco to join the youth staff at Cameron House.

The compassion and commitment of the social work staff at Cameron House influenced Doreen to return to school for a graduate degree in social work, and she earned her MSW from Rutgers University. After receiving her degree, she returned to San Francisco and has worked for various non-profits in Chinatown throughout her career as a social worker.

Among the agencies she has served are Chinatown Youth Service Center, Chinatown Community Children's Center, Inland Counties Developmental Disabilities Center (Southern California), Chinatown Neighborhood Resource Center and On Lok Senior Health Services.

Doreen also served as the Executive Director of Donaldina Cameron House from 2000 to 2009.

Married to the Rev. Bruce Der-McLeod, she has two young adult daughters. - Claudia Hamm

MEDITATION SERVICES, MODELED ON TAIZÉ COMMUNITY, TO BE PRESENTED AT STONE CHURCH DURING LENT

"When we start at the center of ourselves, we discover something worthwhile extending toward the periphery of the circle. We find again some of the joy in the now, some of the peace in the here, some of the love in me and thee which go to make up the kingdom of heaven on earth."

- Anne Morrow Lindbergh,
Gifts from the Sea

You are invited to start at that center, by participating in meditation services at Stone Church during Lent, modeled after those held in the Taizé community in France (described by Erik Swanson in his recent sermon at Stone Church).



These meditation services will be held in the Sanctuary every Tuesday during Lent, beginning Feb. 19 and ending March 26.

Regular Taizé services are held on the first Tuesday of each month. All begin with meditative music at 6:30 pm, with the service starting at 6:45 pm.

- Alice Thorn

ADULT STUDY: FAITH QUESTIONS, PROTESTANTS & CATHOLICS, SCAMS, MATTHEW

Adult Study classes meet on Sunday after Worship, in the Fireside Room, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. Childcare is available in the Nursery.

Feb. 10: Questions of Faith (That Few Dare to Ask), with Dale and Barbara Bracey

This class is a time for speaking our hearts and minds about awkward questions and differences of experience – and a time to probe beyond the way we assume we are expected to think.

February 17 & 24: Protestants and Catholics: Dialogue, Differences and the Holy Catholic Church, with Aimee Moiso

Presbyterians are predestined, and Roman Catholics have the Pope. But are these the real differences between

Presbyterians and Catholics? Are we still divided by the same things that separated us 500 years ago?

Come to this class to find out ... and if you have particular questions, send them to the Rev. Aimee Moiso ahead of time.

March 3: Scams, Spams and Lies, with Suzanna Gal

In our constantly changing marketplace, consumers often feel overwhelmed with the barrage of offers and incentives made by television, the radio, the internet and in-store ads. Where can one go for information and help?

Health Ministries presents Suzanna Gal, Co-Supervisor, Santa Clara County District Attorney Office, Consumer Protection Unit. She will provide in-depth information on important consumer issues and will explain the

specific mediation process used when a consumer chooses to file a formal complaint. (See also page 6.)

March 10, 17 & 24: The Life of Jesus, According to Matthew's Gospel

In 1964, the Italian film director, Pier Paolo Pasolini, wrote and directed *The Gospel According to Matthew*, considered by most critics the finest movie ever made about Jesus. It is in black-and-white and in Italian with English subtitles; all dialog is from the Gospel of Matthew. A remarkable movie.

- * March 10: The birth of Jesus
- * March 17: The mission of Jesus
- * March 24: The passion of Jesus

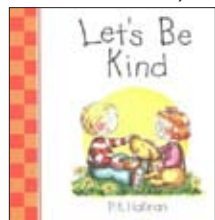
Please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee, for questions about any of these classes. **There is no class on Feb. 3 (Congregational Meeting).**

PICK UP SOME "RETIRED" COMMENTARIES FOR "YOUR" LIBRARY AT STONE'S LIBRARY

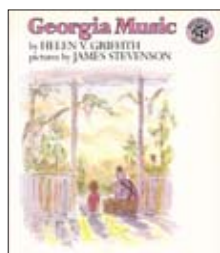
Would your home library like some reinforcement? We are retiring 43 small books of the *Layman's Bible Commentary* (Westminster 1956 & '62), along with some other interesting and useful volumes. Come see them in the library, atop the low shelves.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

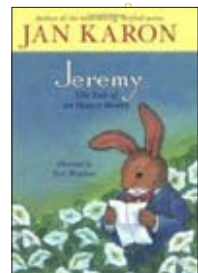
New for our younger members:



Let's Be Kind by P.K. Hallinan (1st Bks J Hal)



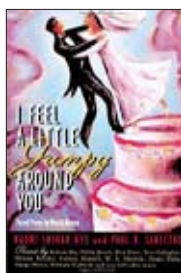
Georgia Music by Helen Griffith (J Gri)



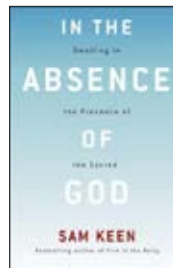
Jeremy: The Tale of an Honest Bunny by Jan Karon (J Kar)



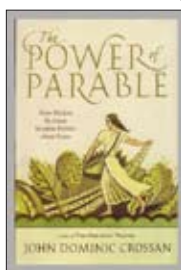
Dreams in Your Life: Scientific & Occult Interpretations by Howard Z. Smith (YA 154.6 Smi), given by Chris Osborne



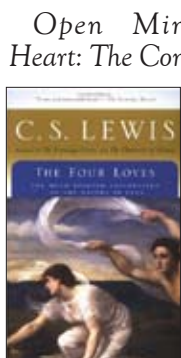
I Feel a Little Jump Around You: A Book of Her Poems & His Poems by Naomi Nye & Paul Janeczko (YA 808.8 Nye)



On the adult side:
In the Absence of God: Dwelling in the Presence of the Sacred by Sam Keen (204 Kee), given by

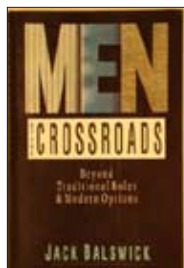


Joy Moriconi
The Power of Parable: How Fiction by Jesus Became Fiction about Jesus by John Dominic Crossan (232.9 Cro), given by Pat Magee

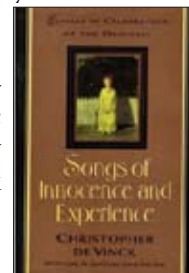


Open Mind Open Heart: The Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel by Thomas Keating (248.4 Kea), given by Bill Ribble

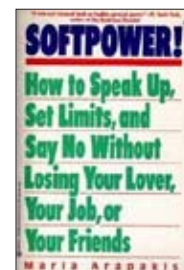
The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis (248.4 Lew), given by Ivan Kolte



Men at the Crossroads: Beyond Traditional Roles & Modern Options by Jack Balswick (305 Bal), given by the Bowers family



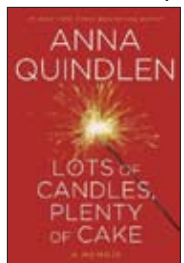
Songs of Innocence and Experience by Christopher De Vinck (814.54 DeV)



In our adult special sections:
Softpower! How to Speak Up, Set Limits, & Say No Without Losing your Lover, Your

Job, or Your Friends by Maria Arapakis (Women 305.4 Ara)

A Woman's Passion for Travel ed. by Marybeth Bond and Pamela Michael (Women 910 Bon)



Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake by Anna Quindlen (Biog QUINDLEN), given by Sara Holtzapple

STONE CHURCH YOUTH GROUP MAKES KITS, GEARS UP FOR ROCK-A-THON AND PRESBYTERY YOUTH WORSHIP NIGHT!

“Gift of the Heart” Kits

Stone’s Youth Group recently learned that some of the people affected by Hurricane Sandy continue to need a lot of help. So, the group decided to participate in a service project, set up by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, that consisted of making “Gift of the Heart” kits – some for general hygiene and some specifically for babies. On Jan. 11, the group assembled:

- ♥ 32 hygiene kits (value \$10 each)
- ♥ 6 baby kits (value \$34 each).
- ♥ for a total of 3 boxes weighing 13, 14 and 16 pounds
- ♥ and for a donation total of \$554, not counting the postage (which was donated).

[See the group at work, in the pictures below!]

This would not have happened without the generous giving of our congre-



gation. The Youth Group thanks you most sincerely. Extra items that were not needed for the kits were donated to a local shelter and Sacred Heart Community Service.

San Jose Presbytery Worship, Feb. 8

On Friday, Feb. 8, from 7 to 9 pm, at Westminster Presbyterian, Stone’s Youth Group will join other groups from around the Presbytery at the San José Presbytery Youth Worship Night. Come and join us!

Rock-a-Thon, Feb. 22 - 23

Stone’s Youth Group will hold their annual Rock-a-Thon, Feb. 22 - 23. Last year, at this all-night, enormously fun event, the group raised over \$650, which they donated to Stone’s Garden Project, the Humane Society and a Family Shelter.

Why not consider making a pledge this year? At press time, the cause had not been determined, but with this caring group, it will be very worthwhile.

For more information, please contact the Rev. Irene Pak.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Hearts and Flowers, Lincoln Logs, throwing a silver dollar across the Potomac River ... anything else is pure frosting for us. Of course, we can also celebrate warmer weather, maybe the trees

will begin to show green, and some of the bulbs will peek through the soil, promising the bright flowers to come.

Emmaus House Trip, Feb. 9

We have provided support for Emmaus House for many years. Have you ever thought how wonderful it would be to visit, but found the trip to Hollister a bit daunting? PW in the Presbytery has planned a trip on Feb. 9 for all interested in seeing for themselves what it is that we support. The group will gather in the parking lot at Los Gatos Presbyterian Church at 9:30 am and carpool from there. RSVP by Feb. 7 to Claudia Hamm.

Fair Trade Sales, Feb. 10

Rhonda Lakatos has restocked our Fair Trade items, so you can restock your shelves, too! Drop by the table in the Social Hall to browse, as there's something new from time to time.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women, Feb. 10

On *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday*, Feb. 10, our preacher will be Doreen Der-McLeod, former Executive Director of Cameron House. The gifts developed at this facility are truly amazing: come and hear about them. (See also page 2.)

Valentine Tea, Feb. 16

Valentine Tea is an occasion we look forward to each year. There is always a *surprise* dessert - what will it be this year? We will be visited by Nona Mock Wyman who has a most interesting story to share with us. (See also page 8.)

Memorial Service for Nell Malander

The Rev. Ken Henry will hold a short Memorial Service immediately following Worship on Feb. 17 for Nell Malander. She was our oldest member (103) and active in the life of Stone Church.

Focus Group Needs You!

The Focus Group is looking for more participants. Their work on current concerns continues to inform and move us to action. If interested, please contact Joyce Summers or June Tablak.

Coupons - Cereal This Month!

Coupons are a continuing mission to aid Katherine R. Smith School.

This month General Mills is offering multiple coupons on their cereals, so eat up!

PW Schedule for February

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, Feb. 6, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, Feb. 7, Maureen Ryan's home

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, Feb. 10, Sunday Worship

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, Feb. 10, Social Hall

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, Feb. 11, Sara Holtzapple's home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Feb. 12, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Ave.

PWCT, 9:30 am, Feb. 14, Social Hall

Valentine Tea, 2 pm, Feb. 16, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, Feb. 18, Nancy Weiss' home, discussing *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

Focus Group, 9:30 am, Feb. 20, June Tablak's home

Book Group I, 1 pm, Feb. 25, Hazel James' home, discussing *Peace Like a River* by Keith Enger

S.I.T. with Rev. Ken Henry, Fireside Room, 2 pm, Feb. 27

Bible Study with Rev. Marge Palmer, 9:30 am, Feb. 28, Church Library, Lesson 7, *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*

- Catherine Amos

MEN'S MINISTRY



The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, a flying group, and wine- and beer-making groups. For additional information about any of these activities, please contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

Men Plan Worktrip to Westminster Woods, March 1 - 3

The next men's worktrip is scheduled for March 1 - 3, at Westminster Woods.

Departure times are flexible to accommodate individual work and commitment schedules.

As always, all that you need to bring is a willingness to help!

For more information, please contact Leland Wong.

Don't Miss the "Crab and Pasta Feed" on Feb. 23

The Men's Ministry is sponsoring a Crab and Pasta Feed, on Feb. 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Please plan to join us for great food and fellowship!

For more information, please contact Bill Ribble.

Flying Trip Planned to Castle AFB in April

The Men's Ministry is planning a flying trip to Castle AFB to the Air Museum in April.

For more information, please contact Bill Ribble.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2013

(continued from page 2)

So come, if you've always come to the retreat. Come, if you've never come before. The women of Stone Church are looking forward to getting to know you better, and your presence will make the retreat more meaningful for all.

Because this retreat will be specifically exploring what Women's Ministry at Stone Church could look like, the planning committee hopes that many female members and attendees of Stone can attend. You will have priority registration. Some partial scholarships are available. For those with work or family obligations there are partial attendance packages.

Watch for your electronic invitation letter and registration form soon, or pick one up at the information table in the Social Hall after Worship in February. Registration includes a semi-private room with bath and five meals.

- Catherine Edwards, Rhonda Lakatos and Ann Pierce, Retreat Coordinators

STONEWORKS WANTS TO HELP EVERYONE PARTICIPATE IN MISSION

StoneWorks is full of energy and excitement for the mission work that lies ahead in 2013!

We will work, plan and execute Stone Church's mission goals by *Community*, rather than *Committee*.

Our goal this year is to continue to support organizations and projects with whom we have already partnered. We hope to increase communication and raise awareness of the good work and needs of Sacred Heart Community Service, CROP Walk for Hunger, InnVision Teen Back-to-School shopping, Bill Wilson Center Adopt-a-Child Christmas program, as well as United Campus Christian Ministries and Destination Home.

Also, we will seek to offer ways of participating in mission work that fit every schedule, lifestyle and abilities.

And, in the spirit of ministering to our own Stone community, we are changing our meeting format to one or two Sunday mornings after church, rather than Tuesday evenings. We will also do more of our work via electronic communication.

We will pray for God's guidance, think outside the box and dare to make a difference.

Aren't you excited, too?

- Maureen Chandler,
Chair, StoneWorks

SCAMS, SPAMS AND LIES: A SPECIAL ADULT STUDY PRESENTED BY HEALTH MINISTRIES, WITH SUZANNA GAL, "CONSUMER PROTECTOR"

It is not always easy to be a savvy consumer. In our constantly changing marketplace, consumers may feel overwhelmed with the barrage of offers and incentives made by television, the radio, the internet and in-store ads - not to mention the *too good to be true* phone calls promising cash rewards. Where can you go for information and aid?

Did you know there is free help available to Santa Clara County residents from the Consumer Protection Unit of the District Attorney's Office? A phone call to 408.792.2880 will connect you to an experienced consumer mediator who can discuss specific problems, including product returns

and warranties, advertising offers and internet purchases.

Health Ministries has arranged for Suzanna Gal, Co-Supervisor of the Consumer Protection Unit, to speak at Adult Study, on Sunday, March 3.

Suzanna will provide in-depth information on important consumer issues and will explain the specific mediation process used when the consumer chooses to file a formal complaint.

This promises to be a highly informative presentation, so mark your calendars for March 3, and come with your questions for Suzanna.

- Kathie Lloyd,
Chair, Health Ministries

ROUTE CHANGE FOR SOUTH BAY CROP WALK: NOW STARTING AT SAN JOSÉ CITY HALL!

Mark your calendars for this year's South Bay CROP Walk on April 21, with check-in at 12:30 pm and walk starting at 1:30 pm.

For the first time in many years, the routes will not be through the

Rose Garden area, but through downtown San Jose, starting at City Hall. There will still be one and four-mile options.

For more information, please contact Lizanne Oliver or Emily Meacham.



SESSION WELCOMES REV. JOEY LEE, EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER; ADOPTS 2013 BUDGET

At its first meeting of the New Year, the Session heard from the Rev. Joey Lee, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of San José. Joey gave a description of where the dollars go that our church gives for the Presbyterian Church beyond our congregation. He explained that our Synod (Synod of the Pacific, the next government entity above the Presbytery), acts as a *router* for mission dollars given by congregations. Through a Mission Pledge form, we direct how the money is to be used; one choice is *basic* support, where the Synod keeps 5% for its use, remits 20% to the national church

and remits 75% to the Presbytery. Other choices include splitting the amounts differently and designating to specific church programs.

Joey gave each Session member a copy of the Presbytery budget, which details how the Presbytery uses its 75%. One surprising fact is that two-thirds of the Presbytery budget is funded by interest on its investments - the monies having accumulated from past sales of property (for example, Corralitos Conference Center in the Santa Cruz mountains). Giving by churches makes up only 38% of the Presbytery budget.

The Session also adopted the budget for Stone Church for 2013, having heard the glad news that we ended 2012 in the black.

Associate Pastor Irene Pak was excited to report that there are 10 youth in the Confirmation Class, with at least half to be baptized if they decide to join the church at the end of the process. She is also enjoying her Friday nights with the youth.

Session adopted a new charter for Men's Ministries, including how they will keep Session aware of their activities, including Mission trips.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session



MORE GREAT SNOW
TRIP PICTURES FROM
THE REV. IRENE PAK



Please join us for food and fellowship at a traditional Stone Church "Potluck Lunch," on Sunday, Feb. 24, at 11 am.

Bring your favorite salad, side dish or dessert to share and become better acquainted with your Stone Church family.

Bread, tableware and drinks will be provided.

Any offers to help with clean up will be gladly accepted.

For more information, please contact Virginia Holtz, Chair, Fellowship & Renewal Committee.

Everyone is cordially invited to the Presbyterian Women of Stone Church Valentine Tea to be held on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 2 to 4 pm, in the Stone Church Social Hall featuring Nona Mock Wyman

Nona Mock Wyman was only two-years-old when she was abandoned at the Ming Quong Home in Los Gatos in 1935. One of her earliest memories is watching her mother walk out the door and never return. While she will never forget the pain of that loss, Nona is a survivor. She wrote about her childhood in the memoir *Chopstick Childhood in a Town of Silver Spoons*.



In her latest book, *Bamboo Women*, she shares stories of her "sisters" and how their bonds of love and friendship carried them through life, love, loss, career and family.

For 44 years, Nona has owned and run a shop, Ming Quong (Radiant Light), in Walnut Creek, where she sells gift items and creative clothing. Her son, Jim, shares the space, selling jewelry.

Both of Nona's books will be available for sale at the tea.

Please let us know that you are coming by contacting Claudia Hamm by Feb. 8. Childcare available on request by the same date.

MOVIE REVIEW: WHAT'S IN YOUR PLAYBOOK?

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

(continued from page 1)

Like the underlying theme in *Silver Linings Playbook*, Jesus offered the gift of God's acceptance.

Excelsior!

As the film progresses, and the characters' lives become intertwined, Bradley Cooper (nominated for Best Actor) clings to this word like a life-line tossed to him on stormy seas.

While often used as the name for a restaurant or hotel, the word, *excelsior*, at its root, means *upward, lofty or beyond*. What a beautiful way to describe the nature of acceptance!

For in practicing *acceptance* with our relationships, in both offering it and receiving it, we begin to move forward, to reach upward and to seek a higher value.

This is the *Sliver Linings Playbook*. And I believe as we put our trust and faith in God and the teachings of Jesus, this becomes our playbook, too.

St Francis of Assisi put it this way:

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born
to Eternal Life. Amen.

See you at the movies! Ken

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