

Tuesday, March 18, 2025



Day 12

“As a deer longs for a stream of cool water, so I long for you, O God.”

—PSALM 42:1 (GNT)

Reflect

What do you long for? That question may feel like shining a light on our heart’s unspoken desires. Longing is not linear; it is not held by the boundaries of time. We long for the beauty of the past. Someone who once held you in his arms. Someone who once really made you laugh. That time back before you were sick or achy. We wish we could just skip ahead to the possibilities of the future—when I finally find them, when I have enough money, enough time or agency, or when they finally listen. We long for what could have been—when we had great plans for a future together...until he died, until the diagnosis, until the divorce. Longing is an ache inside our souls that starts from the seed of love. So maybe our longings aren’t bad, but tell us of something truer still.

Respond

What is your heart longing for today? Are you longing for something in the future, in the past, or for what might have been?



Blessing for everyday funerals

*When archeologists dig down deep
in the hard-packed sediment
of civilizations
come and gone
they find flowers, dried flowers,
strewn among the bones.
Someone was laid down
among their people
and the first thought,
the best thought,
was to pull flowers from the dirt
to accompany them.*

We know an ending when we see one.

*We attend funerals every day.
Big and small,
we see our endings.
Last day of school,
last hope in that friend,
end of this love or
that bit of youth.
Last touch of their warm,
paper-skinned hand
before they are stolen away
to braid grass into crowns
with the King of Heaven.*

*And if we are lucky,
we pause once a day.
We feel a kindling in our heart
which reminds us:
there it is and there it goes.
We tilt our heads, then glance back,
fast enough to see it fade.
And we feel the magnitude
of such a miracle—
that anything, anyone, began at all.
And we find ourselves,
hearts weighed down by too much love,
pulling at the grass,
searching for flowers.¹²*

¹² Kate Bowler. "A Blessing for Everyday Funerals" in *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day: Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens*. (New York: Convergent Books, 2024). 42-43.