

The Light Shines in the Darkness - Parish Mission 2020
I Will Go to My Father

St. Teresa of Calcutta, in Come, Be my Light

Since 49 or 50 this terrible sense of loss—this untold darkness—this loneliness—this continual longing for God—which gives me that pain deep down in my heart. Darkness is such that I really do not see—neither with my mind nor with my reason. —The place of God in my soul is blank. —There is no God in me.—He is not there.—Heaven—souls—why are these just words—which mean nothing to me.—My very life seems so contradictory.—The torture and pain I can't explain. (p. 209-210)

For the first time in this [sic] 11 years—I have come to love the darkness. —For I believe that it is a part, a very, very small part of Jesus' darkness and pain on earth. For you have taught me to accept it [as] a spiritual side of 'your work'... Today I felt a deep joy—that Jesus can't go anymore through the agony—but that He wants to go through it in me.—More than ever I surrender myself to him.—Yes—more than ever I will be at his disposal. (p. 215)

Hosea 11:1-4.8

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

² The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and offering incense to idols.

³ Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.

⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.

I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.

I bent down to them and fed them.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?

How can I hand you over, O Israel?

My heart recoils within me;

my compassion grows warm and tender.

Luke 15:18

I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Questions for Personal Reflection

- What kind of darkness or desert have I experienced during this time?
- Have I doubted the Father's love? Have I complained and judged others?
- Do I experience the Father calling me to Himself with compassion and tenderness?
- What can I do to turn to Him (=conversion) and grow closer to his heart during these upcoming months?