Forgiveness as life: A prayer

Mary Schertz

Holy and merciful God:

We know that you are both pure and compassionate and call us to be so, too.
We read this and we claim it and we confess our difficulty with it.
It sounds good on Sunday morning;
it sings, it preaches, we nod our heads, we say "amen."
But during the week, we muddle through our practice.
Sometimes we manage holy or loving;
sometimes, briefly, we manage a balance;
and often we just fall short on either count.

Grant us wisdom and patience and grace.
Wisdom to trust that the relationship in which this paradox lives is worth our lives.
Patience to keep coming back to try again.
Grace to return to forgiveness over and over
—throwing our unholy selves
into your warm and ever-open arms
that we might be released and also release.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

About the author

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