

Seven collects

Lois H. Siemens

Scrabble-playing God,
who juxtaposes word, image, and humanity into a glorious newness,
spark my imagination,
that with new eyes of faith I will see your welcome
 and join your deep, slow work
 of forgiveness and covenant love.
In the name of Jesus, amen.

Inner-speaking God,
who nudges us into relationship in our place and time,
remove the shame of our belief that our experiences
 are unworthy to stand in your sight,
so we may see with new eyes of the heart
 your plenary address to the world.
Through Jesus, amen.

Breath of God,
whose truth winds between rocks and hard places,
open up the way for us,
that in seeking your face,
 we will encounter our sisters and brothers.
In the name of Jesus, amen.

Judging God,
who sets before us life and death, heaven and hell,
teach us the truth of these boundaries,
that we will not lose sight of your covenant love
 that holds these two worlds together.
Through the risen Christ, amen.

Clear-eyed God,
whose living encircles mystery and ambiguity,
remove the film over our eyes with care,
 because we do not tolerate ambiguity with ease,
that through mercy our lives will be spent seeing into your story.
Through the name of Jesus, amen.

Initiative-taking God,
whose long-range love propels us forward,
take initiative with me—
 knock on my door
 and open it
 when I am too scared to answer;
with covenant love
 come into my kitchen, bedroom, and closet
 when I am paralysed by fear and hurt—
that I will take your hand and find my way home.
In the name of the Wounded One, amen.

Twenty-first-century God,
who holds the past, present, and future within your skirts,
teach us long-range vision,
that we may embrace tradition with understanding,
 diversity with imagination,
 community with grace.
Through Jesus, the one who was, and is, and is to come, amen.

About the author

Lois H. Siemens is in transition between acquiring an MDiv degree (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 2006) and assuming her new responsibilities as pastor of Superb Mennonite Church, Kerrobert, Saskatchewan. She enjoys the prayer discipline of writing collects, a form that often includes these elements: (1) naming God; (2) a description of the name, which often begins with “who”; (3) a petition; (4) a statement of hope for an outcome of the petition, which often begins with “that”; (5) a doxology. The collects printed here were inspired by her reading of *The Dogmatic Imagination: The Dynamics of Christian Belief*, by A. James Reimer (Waterloo, ON: Herald Press, 2003).