The Slow Work of God

As spiritual people, we know that the fruits of living a faithful life often come slow and gradually. And yet, in the midst of our fast paced lives, we can sometimes forget to give ourselves the opportunity to take stock of how are participation in church and our love of God have slowly transformed our lives. Today’s session is a chance for you to reflect a bit on how “the slow work of God” has changed your heart, your mind, and your life.

**A Reading from Teilhard de Chardin**

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything

 to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way

 to something unknown,

 something new.

Yet it is the law of all progress that is made

 by passing through some stages of instability

 and that may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.

Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.

Let them shape themselves without undue haste.

Do not try to force them on

 as though you could be today what time

 -- that is to say, grace --

 and circumstances

 acting on your own good will

 will make you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new Spirit

 gradually forming in you will be.

Give our Lord the benefit of believing

 that his hand is leading you,

 and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself

 in suspense and incomplete.

Above all, trust in the slow work of God,

 our loving vine-dresser.

Amen.

**Questions for Reflection**

1. Which line of this meditation strikes you most strongly? Why?
2. When you look back at the past several years, do you have any sense of God having been at work in your own life to bring greater healing, wholeness or awareness in some way?
3. How do you think your participation in church communities has helped (or hindered?!?) your sense of how God is working within your life?

**A Prayer**

Be present, Spirit of God,

Within us, your dwelling place and home,

That this house may be one where

All darkness is penetrated by your light,

All troubles calmed by your peace,

All evil redeemed by your love,

All pain transformed in your suffering,

And all dying glorified in your risen life. Amen.