

## **A NEW HEART FOR A NEW YEAR**

**a series of conversations and study based on Celtic wisdom**

### **LORD OF MY HEART**

Lord of my heart, **give me vision** to inspire me,  
that working or resting, I may always think of you.

Lord of my heart, **give me light** to guide me,  
that at home or abroad I may always walk in your way.

Lord of my heart, **give me wisdom** to direct me,  
that thinking or acting, I may always discern right from wrong.

Lord of my heart, **give me courage** to strengthen me,  
that amongst friends or enemies, I may always proclaim your justice.

Lord of my heart, **give me trust** to console me,  
that hungry or well-fed, I may always rely on your mercy.

Lord of my heart, save me from empty praise,  
that I may always boast of you.

Lord of my heart, save me from worldly wealth,  
that I may always look to the riches of heaven.

Lord of my heart, save me from military prowess,  
that I may always seek your protection.

Lord of my heart, save me from vain knowledge,  
that I may always study your word.

Lord of my heart, save me from unnatural pleasures,  
that I may always find joy in your wonderful creation.

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall me,  
rule over my thoughts and feelings, my words and actions."

*Ray Simpson, in Daily Light from the Celtic Saints: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life*



### **1 : VISION**

### **guest - Rev. Terri Hord Owens**

*Rev. Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens was elected as the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada in July 2017. She is the first person of color and second woman to lead the denomination. She is the first African-American woman to lead a mainline Christian denomination. Rev. Owens was Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL prior to her election. Terri's resume includes more than 20 years in corporate America as a technology management consultant and executive, leading diverse teams in data management in health care and other industries before she entered seminary.*

## Session 1: VISION

introduction : David Emery

session : David Emery in conversation with **Terri Hord Owens**

### PRAYER FOCUS

*Lord of my heart, **give me vision to inspire me,**  
that working or resting, I may always think of you.*

### SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Ephesians 1:17-18 (NRSV)

*I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.*

### MAIN IDEA

If the heart is the source of our motivations, then it will need a vision to guide it. When we give our heart to God, we are saying 'I'm yours, guide me in the path you have in mind for me.' **Vision begins with a surrendered heart.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ⇒ When life becomes difficult and the future is uncertain how do you take care of your heart?
- ⇒ How does the first petition of this prayer prepare us for the challenges ahead of us in 2021?
- ⇒ How does a daily habit of reading scripture give us a fresh vision to inspire us?
- ⇒ What was most inspiring thing that impacted you in Terri Hord Owens' interview?