

JANUARY:  
WHAT COULD IT MEAN TO SEEK  
WHOLENESS?



ReIMAGINING  
our 1630 Covenant

In the book *God is Not One*, Stephen Prothero suggests that each of the eight major world religions describes both a problem and a solution to that problem. Our 1630 Covenant reflects the Puritan Christian understanding of the “problem” as sin and the “solution” as Jesus Christ who “Redeemed, and Sanctified” them. How do we understand what is “wrong” and a path to something better? In a cracked and broken world, what could it mean to seek wholeness?

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. Which word(s) do you most often use to describe the “problems” in the world?
2. How do you relate to your own sense of falling short or causing harm?
3. What “solution(s)” do you find most hopeful for making a better world?
4. What helps to restore your own sense of wholeness or self-acceptance?

Wise Words:

Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.  
— Leonard Cohen

You don't need another person, place or thing to make you whole. God already did that. Your job is to know it.  
— Maya Angelou

We have a choice. We can embrace our humanness, which means embracing our broken natures and the compassion that remains our best hope for healing. Or we can deny our brokenness, forswear compassion, and, as a result, deny our own humanity.  
— Bryan Stevenson

A writer's heart, a poet's heart, an artist's heart, a musician's heart is always breaking. It is through that broken window that we see the world...  
— Alice Walker

Love is the name for our pursuit of wholeness, for our desire to be complete.  
— Plato

Wholeness does not mean perfection: it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life.  
—Parker J. Palmer

I have noticed that people are dealing too much with the negative, with what is wrong. ... Why not try the other way, to look into the patient and see positive things, to just touch those things and make them bloom?  
—Thich Nhat Hanh

We think that the point is to pass the test or overcome the problem, but the truth is that things don't really get solved. They come together and they fall apart. Then they come together again and fall apart again. It's just like that. The healing comes from letting there be room for all of this to happen: room for grief, for relief, for misery, for joy.  
—Pema Chodron