

Stepping Off-Stage

Joel 2:13-14

“Rend your heart and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.” (NIV)

There are times when the best way to express our emotions is through poetry, because a speech or story cannot capture all of the same emotions. The poem below is from one of our faculty members and responds to the temptation to put on a show rather than just be present.

Regularly caught up in performance, amazed at my own
Accomplishments, often surprised by my brilliance,
I sing my songs and play my instruments, spending
As much time as possible in front of the mirror polishing
My stage presence: performing for my preferred and
Appreciative God who cannot get enough of me and
My stage effectiveness.

And forget that it is not about me but about others—
About unselfish concern for those other than myself
Who matter but who have been short sheeted by life,
Tricked by circumstances, who struggle alone against
The unfairness of life, the fickleness of fate, and the arbitrariness
Of political power.

I am dam more than flowing river.
I am peaceful stream more than torrent.
I am more swirling eddy than surging waterway
I am idol worshiper more than God mirror,
more ceremonial manager than awestruck pilgrim,
more complaisant observer than angry defender.

AMK

Points for Prayer:

Who is my heart serving today?