Hello beloved saints of FPC!



Several weeks ago, the Somethings of FPC embarked on their yearly Lenten journey together, this time making crosses out of fused glass. This tangible piece of spirituality they are carrying with themselves enlivens the theme of our collective journey this year—"the flame within: kindling the sparks of our spirits."

This theme was inspired by some wise words from Buddha: "Be a light unto yourself. Be a lamp unto yourself. Don't search for light anywhere else; the light is already there, the fire is already there. Just probe a little deeper into your being, enquire. Maybe much ash has gathered around the fire...just probe deep inside, and you will find the spark again. And once you have found a single spark inside you, you will become a flame soon, you will be a fire—a fire that purifies, a fire that transforms, a fire that gives you a new birth and a new being. Be a lamp unto yourself."

... And, some wise words from our beloved Savior: "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. [15] People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5: 14-16)

Below is a prayer I wrote for the Somethings during their Lenten journeys. As we approach the holiest of weeks in our faith story, may we be aware of the divine spark that rests within each of us, always.

Love,
Pastor Esther

***a spark***

in a moment long ago, before moments were moments, there was a spark.
this spark's name was *you*.

when there was nothing, and the world wasn't the world, you became *something*.

suddenly the dark canvas of nothing ignited with the tiniest of flickers, a proclamation of something new in all that was.

then, there were many *yous*.

glimmers of existence began to change this nothingness to somethingness, and the dark canvas became a glittering constellation of *you*.

the spark that is you has always remained—even when life seems to extinguish who you are and threatens to suffocate what is truly you.

you have always had this spark within you—it has always swirled in the kindling fires of your belovedness, ultimately becoming a flame that burns bright against whatever canvas the universe may be.

your spark becomes a flame, which becomes a fire, which ultimately is the lamp that guides your feet and shines to the world.

never lose your spark.
never lose *you*.
for long ago you were a single flicker in an empty nothing.
you hold that light within you.

let it shine.