

A sacred moment

Beloved person,

During the period around New Year, I often feel the need to step out of my normal rhythm. It is then that I search for a moment to temporarily interrupt the everyday, creating space to, as it were, lift up my life. I try to empty my calendar, create moments of calm and, while walking the dog, think about the days of the past year. Such a moment of transition fits with my desire to feel once more that my life is connected to a greater story that doesn't stop at the boundaries of a single year.

The last service of 2025 can also be such a sacred moment. A moment in which the 'I', the 'other' and 'life', as it were, take a seat next to each other and, using a little bit of imagination, a soul-searching conversation between these three can arise. Just imagine that 'you', 'someone else' and 'life' go through the past year together and ask each other these questions: what did we give to each other this year? What did we invite each other to do? Where did we find courage or softness? What requires attention? What can be let go and what can come with us into the new year?

Perhaps it is possible to delay our judgement in that discussion, to let our critical voice be silent for a while. Nowadays, this is rarely exemplified for us and yet it is of essential importance. It makes space to be grateful for what was given form, being open for what still needs attention and to be gentle whenever pain or loss asks for a place in life. It makes space for Love.

Today, too, we create a sacred moment in which the names of those we have lost in the past year will be mentioned. By mentioning their names, we honour their lives and give thanks for all they left to us and to life. Also, by mentioning all the names of people of goodwill, in so many different places, it becomes tangible that every life is *and* remains connected with eternity. That is our firm belief. Now, and in all the days to come.

Know that your life was a blessing.



*Encouraged by you going forward
we take up the torch,
and continue forwards full of faith.¹*

With a warm-hearted greeting, also on behalf of sister Nanda Ziere,
gladly your brother Marten van der Wal

¹ 'Salute to the peace workers', men's choir song no. 12 (Freely translated)