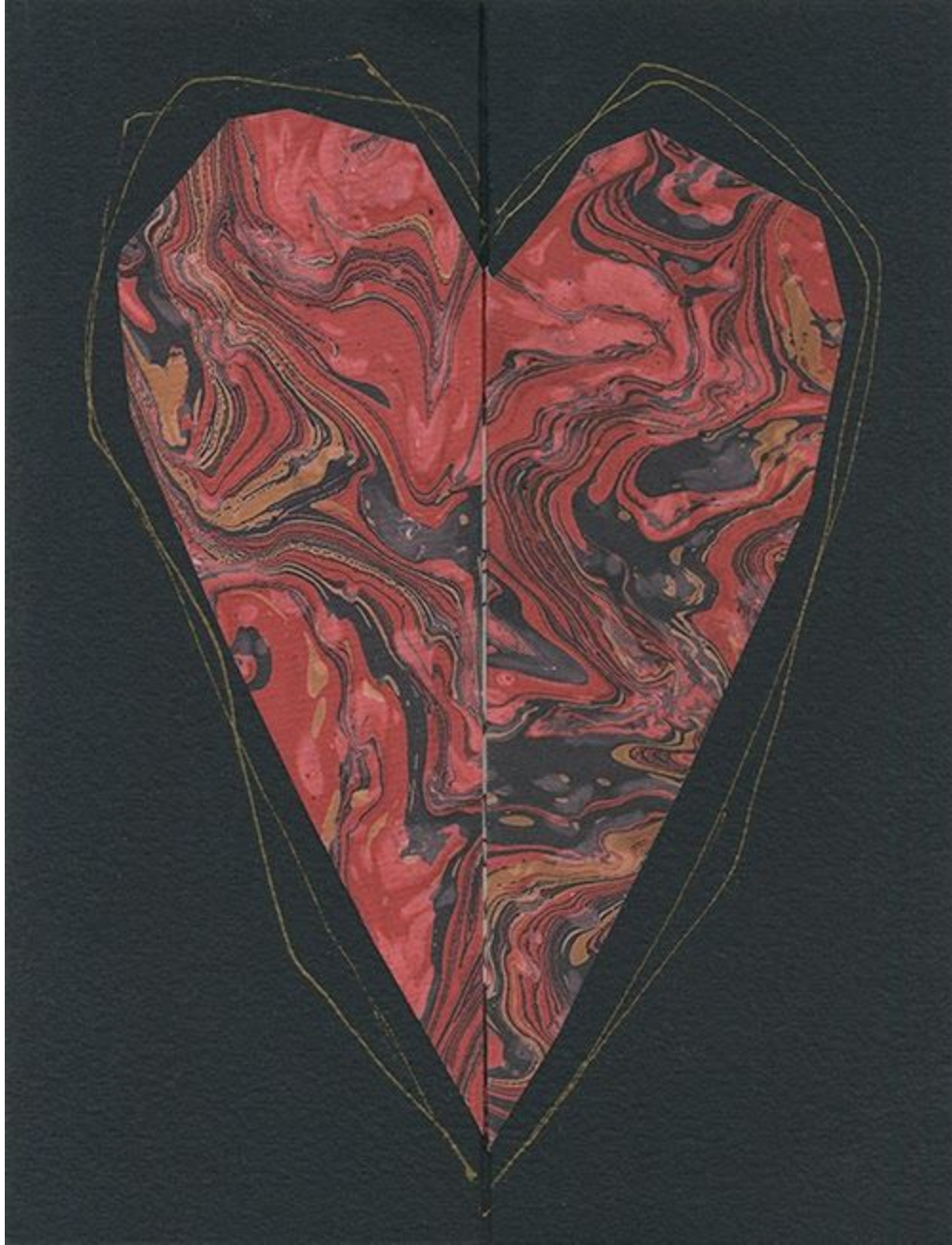


## **Advent Meditations - Week Three - Love**

Jan Richardson is a United Methodist Minister, author and artist. Her work has been a blessing to many people for many years. A couple of years ago her husband died quite suddenly. Her journey through grief, which she shares with grace and vulnerability, speaks to the themes of love and sorrow which are often intertwined.

We welcome the God of love, born into our midst as a child. Yet we know the end of the story and even the in-between bits that were heartbreaking. For his mother Mary, fleeing to Egypt to save her son, as she witnessed the devastation of Herod's wrath, must have torn her heart apart.

I share with you for this week's reflection, some of Jan's thoughts and art. I've also included a link to her website where some of this material comes from for you to explore more from her wealth of gifts.



**Blessing for the Brokenhearted by Jan Richardson**

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From 1 Corinthians 13:13

*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;  
and the greatest of these is love.*

Loving is always risky, because we cannot enter into it without being changed. Altered. Transformed. In the face of this, we might well ask, *Do I really want this?* Do we really desire to be so undone?

Loving is never just about opening our heart. It is about being willing to have our heart become larger as we make room for people and stories and experiences we never imagined holding. It is about being willing to have our heart become deeper as we move beyond the surface layers of our assumptions, prejudices, and habits in order to truly see and receive what—and who—is before us. It is about being willing to have our heart continually shattered and remade as we take in not only the brokenness of the world but also the beauty of it, the astounding wonder that will not allow us to remain the same.

- Jan Richardson

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[Click Here for Jan Richardson's Blog](#)