

Another chance

Scripture: John 7:54-8:11

In the place of judgment
A woman stands
Afraid and trembling
She awaits her death

Accusers encircle her
Years of experience assure them
Confident and vengeful
They prepare to kill.

A different path opens
Earthwriting traces a way
Reveals something false and lost
Opens wounds raw and harsh.

Play “Was it a Dream” from the album “Songs from the Arc of Life” performed by Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott. It is about 2:26 in duration. [Click here to play the music.](#)



The accusers read words of kindness
Brokenness named and claimed
Feel new possibilities
Their lives with another chance

The woman reads words of respect
Her suffering acknowledged
Feels her dignity revealed
Her life with another chance.

All this is God.

Pause

Take a few minutes to look at this image by Luba Lukova.



Pause

In Lukova's words,
The image depicts an immigrant
A visual image of a grafted tree as a human
A person who has changed his/her roots
But continues to grow in a new place.

To challenge categories
To re-think differences
To act from new awareness
To risk untried paths
To have another chance

All this is God

Notes from Janet Walton:

I borrowed the form for this prayer from John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us*.

The phrase "All this is God" is quoted from the poem "Welcome Morning" by Anne Sexton.

The music is a song composed by Jean Sibelius, "Was is it a Dream," from the album "Songs from the Arc of Life," performed by Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott.