

The Upper Room<sup>[1]</sup> devotional reflection for Wednesday, January 13, 2021 comes to us from Nils-Ake Nilsson of Sweden

**Romans 12:4-8** *4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

**1 Corinthians 12:12 (NRSV)** *Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

### “My Right Place”

The most beautiful plant in our home is in our bathroom. It is a November cactus, and it amazes with its beautiful flowering, even in conditions where other flowers fight for their existence, like in the short winter days. In the bathroom, it has found its right environment to blossom.

In the same way, it is vital that we as humans find our right environment so that we can blossom. Each of us is original and valuable – just as we are.

The November cactus does not need much light, so it does well in the shade. Similarly, not all Christians require being in the spotlight to make life meaningful. The important thing is that we find our right environment, our right place, so that in those conditions and with the gifts God has given us, we can bring hope and share in God’s kingdom. The potential to blossom exists within each of us to serve among people in our community, in our country, and in our world.

-- Nils-Ake Nilsson

**Prayer Focus:** Unity in the Body of Christ

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to discover the gifts we have received, and make us willing to use them for you so that our lives can flourish to your glory. Amen

**Thought for the Day:** Today, I will seek the places where I can best use my talents to serve the Lord.

Friends –

I am so grateful for Farmington: First because it feels to me like an environment when I can thrive, offer my skills, and grow in faith through each of you.

I learn a lot every week about how God is working in and through us as the United Methodist Church in downtown Farmington, and I am very proud to serve among you.

--Pastor bea

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.upperroom.org/>