***Ash Wednesday***

*Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,. . .
rend your hearts and not your clothing.*
—Joel 2.12-13

**Rend Your Heart**

To receive this blessing,
all you have to do
is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
so that you can see
its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces
where you have hesitated
to go.

Your entire life
is here, inscribed whole
upon your heart’s walls:
every path taken
or left behind,
every face you turned toward
or turned away,
every word spoken in love
or in rage,
every line of your life
you would prefer to leave
in shadow,
every story that shimmers
with treasures known
and those you have yet
to find.

*In the light of all that is going on*

 *in your life and/or in our world, --*

 *what does this Lenten poem offer you?*

 *Is there a line or phrase that captures*

 *your attention?*

 *Or anything else you want to share?*



 

It could take you days
to wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.

And so let this be
a season for wandering,
for trusting the breaking,
for tracing the rupture
that will return you

to the One who waits,
who watches,
who works within
the rending
to make your heart
whole.

 —Jan Richardson