

*For those left to mourn her passing, Laura has shared the following “Blessing for the Brokenhearted” on which she reflected daily toward the end of her life:*

*Let us agree  
for now  
that we will not say  
the breaking  
makes us stronger  
or that it is better  
to have this pain  
than to have done  
without this love.*

*Let us promise  
we will not  
tell ourselves  
time will heal  
the wound,  
when every day  
our waking  
opens it anew.*

*Perhaps for now  
it can be enough  
to simply marvel  
at the mystery  
of how a heart  
so broken  
can go on beating,  
as if it were made  
for precisely this—*

*as if it knows  
the only cure for love  
is more of it,*

*as if it sees  
the heart’s sole remedy  
for breaking  
is to love still,*

*as if it trusts  
that its own  
persistent pulse  
is the rhythm  
of a blessing  
we cannot  
begin to fathom  
but will save us.*

*— Jan Richardson*