Introductions:
- Name, role, and favorite seasonal memory

Touchstones:
- Reminder of our norms for reflective conversation

Today's Theme:
- Current condition of your work world; soul and role
- Poetry as the truth told at a slant, storytelling of one’s selfhood
- “On Coming Into September” observing the fall as the start of the “academic year” and reviewing the past year for essential elements of teaching/leading to carry forward into the new year.

Reflective Dialogue:
- What word image or phrase captured your attention around the theme of soul and role in your work world?
- Journal prompts that grabbed the attention of your heart?
- Other noticings

General offerings for the group:

Closing:
- What would you like to carry from this gathering back to your work world at DU?

*Soul and Role Touchstones
- Bring 100% of self
- There is always invitation, always opportunity; never invasion
  - No fixing, no saving, and no advising
  - Openness to learning from others
  - Speak for yourself; tell your story
  - Listen to the silence
  - Confidentiality
On Coming Into September

White butterflies, with single
Black fingerpaint eyes on their wings
Dart and settle, eddy and mate
Over the green tangle of vines
In Labor Day morning steam.

The year grinds into ripeness
And rot, grapes darkening,
Pears yellowing, the first
Virginia creeper twining crimson,
The grasses, dry straw to burn.

The New Year rises, beckoning
Across the umbrellas on the sand.
I begin to reconsider my life.
What is the yield of my impatience?
What is the fruit of my resolve?

I turn from my frantic white dance
Over the jungle of productivity
And slowly a niggun slides,
Cold water down my throat.
I rest on a leaf spotted red.

Now is the time to let the mind
Search backwards like the raven loosed
To see what can feed us. Now,
The time to cast the mind forward
To chart an aerial map of the months.

The New Year is a great door
That stands across the evening and Yom
Kippur is the second door. Between them
Are song and silence, stone and clay pot
To be filled from within myself.

I will find there both ripeness and rot,
What I have done and undone,
What I must let go with the waning days
And what I must take in. With the last
Tomatoes, we harvest the fruit of our lives.
Marge Piercy

Journal Prompts

1. Where might you encounter obstacles, fear, or resistance if you try moving forward on your personal/professional journey? Who or what is likely to offer the strongest resistance to change? Who are my kindred spirits?

2. As you cast your mind and heart backward over the recent “year” of your personal/professional life, what will the raven of your mind bring back to sustain you? What gifts, memories, or learnings are keepers? What is not worth carrying forward and what should be left by the side of the road?

3. What is emerging or waiting to be born in the heart of your teaching/leading? Where is the professional/personal soil most fertile and ready for planting the next crop of seeds for your teaching/leadership?