

# An Awesome Gift, Freely Given



## Called by a Presence Jan Novotka

Called by a Presence with no name;  
Called to walk an unknown road;  
Called to say yes to the Emptiness  
And to leave all behind;  
Called by a Presence with no name



Our prayer is characterized  
by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.  
God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

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Thank You For Joining Us!

**Prayer Leader:**

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## To Ponder: Ilia Delio, OSF [ten evenings with God](#)

The secret of nature tells us that one does not do the will of God as if doing a job or accomplishing a task; rather, one lives in the will of God as in a way of life. The will of God is the fundamental meaning of our lives here on earth. As we grow in understanding the will of God as the love of God, we let go of the expectations and demands we usually place on ourselves and allow ourselves to stand open in creation, vulnerable to the movements of life. We “let go and let God,” allowing God to rule our hearts, occupy our thoughts, and influence our actions. We grow in unity with God, a daily oneness in heart and mind, to the degree that we become possessed by God. “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me,” Saint Paul wrote. We may still have our moments of anger or upset or maybe even days of desolation, but now we live with a capacity for wonder and in the generosity of love because we live in receptivity and gratitude for the gift of life bubbling over with the love of God.

The finitude of life continues to show itself in the death of friends, in the financial constraints of modern life, in the decline of health, but possessed by God we live with an inner sense that God is with us and will not leave us orphans or widows. We know, not with the head but with the heart, that the love of God is stronger than death. Indeed, it is God’s love that can transform what is dead into life. Possessed by God we live as those who have received an awesome gift freely given, a prize won by sheer fortune. Amazed by this gift, we want to share it with others. Hence we go out to others—to our neighbors, the poor, the elderly, the stranger—and in sharing of this love, we see God in the extraordinary ordinariness of life. We see that the God who dwells within us also dwells in other people. We realize there is one God and we are one people, one Adam, one Christ.

## Reading: Bruce Sanguin “What a Soul Seeks” in [If Darwin Prayed](#)

O Holy One,  
we can be a grasping, greedy bunch,  
but you know better than we  
that what we are reaching for is you.

Within the sparkle of diamonds  
is the glint of your holy smile,  
beckoning us toward true wealth.

Within the lure of gold  
is your bright promise of spiritual wealth  
beyond measure.

Within our fascination for power  
is your alluring call  
to discover the pearl of great price,  
the life of spiritual wisdom,  
to live in and as divine presence.

Help us to learn this way of the open hand  
and the open heart,  
to let the abundance of the universe  
flow through us  
and find its way back home  
to your heart.  
Amen.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

