

## Deep Peace *Gaelic blessing,*

*adapted and sung by Shaina Noll*

Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace of the gentle night to you  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you  
Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you

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Deep peace to you



## Belonging to God



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.

*Thank You For Joining Us!*

Prayer Leader:

Ginny Schiros  
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Centering Space:  
14812 Lake Ave | Lakewood  
[www.centeringspace.org](http://www.centeringspace.org)  
216.228.7451  
[centeringspace@srsfcharity.org](mailto:centeringspace@srsfcharity.org)

*To Ponder: "Our Deepest Insecurity" Fr. Ronald Rolheiser*

Why don't we live happier lives? Why are we forever caught up in frustrations, tensions, angers, and resentments?

The reasons of course are too many to name. Each day, as Jesus himself tells us, brings problems enough for the day. We're unhappy for reasons too many to count.

But a deeper reflection, reveals an underlying, unacknowledged insecurity which works at turning the perennially positive into the negative. What is this insecurity?

This insecurity is, at root, a feeling that we are not sufficiently welcome in this world, that God and the universe are somehow hostile to us, that we are not unconditionally loved and forgiven. And, because of this, the feeling is a threat to the welcome we desire.

And, when this is true, Merton submits, this can only be remedied "when people realize that they are all debtors, and that the debt is unpayable."

And isn't all of this so true today? How much we have turned our God into the embodiment of our resentments, hatred, and fears! We all struggle to believe in a God who actually loves everyone and who is not just our own tribal deity.

...Merton shares too the secret of how to move beyond this, of how to stop projecting our own resentments and fears into God and into our churches. His answer? Things will change when, at the root of our being, we accept that we are debtors and that the debt is unpayable. We will feel welcome when we realize the gift of God's love is beyond our ability to earn or achieve. Then we will finally accept God's welcome and love and, accepting our own welcome, we will no longer resent others. It's only when we know our own welcome that we can let acceptance, and not judgment, flow out of our lives. And then, and only then, can we let our God be too the God of others.

*Reading: — John O'Donahoe*

May you listen to your longing to be free.  
May the frames of your belonging be large enough  
for the dreams of your soul.  
May you arise each day with a voice of blessing  
whispering in your heart that  
something good is going to happen to you.  
May you find harmony between your soul and your life.  
May the mansion of your soul never become a haunted place.  
May you know the eternal longing  
which lives at the heart of time.  
May there be kindness in your gaze when you look within.  
May you never place walls between the light and yourself.  
May your angel free you  
from the prisons of guilt, fear, disappointment, and despair.  
May you allow  
the wild beauty of the invisible world  
to gather you,  
mind you,  
and embrace you in belonging.



*Sharing...*

*a word...*

*a phrase...*

*a reflection...*