

To Ponder: Brother David Steindl-Rast  
*Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer*

Play needs no purpose. That is why play can go on and on as long as players find it meaningful. After all, we do not dance in order to get somewhere. We dance around and around. A piece of music doesn't come to an end when its purpose is accomplished. It has no purpose, strictly speaking. It is the playful unfolding of a meaning that is there in each of its movements, in every theme, every passage: a celebration of meaning. Pachelbel's Canon is one of the magnificent superfluities of life. Every time I listen to it, I realize anew that some of the most superfluous things are the most important for us because they give meaning to our human life. We need this kind of experience to correct our world-view. Too easily are we inclined to imagine that God created this world for a purpose. We are so caught up in purpose that we would feel more comfortable if God shared our preoccupation with work. But God plays. The birds in a single tree are sufficient proof that God did not set out with a divine no-nonsense attitude to make a creature that would perfectly achieve the purpose of a bird. What could that purpose be I wonder? There are titmice, juncos, and chickadees; woodpeckers, gold finches, starlings and crows. The only bird God never created is the no-nonsense bird. As we open our eyes and hearts to God's creation, we quickly perceive that God is playful, a God of leisure.

A Poem: Joyce Rupp  
*rest your dreams on a little twig*

I'm grateful  
for simple wildflowers,  
renegades of beauty,  
paying no heed  
to the proper place,  
or the acceptable way  
to rise up in glory.

Their seeds fall  
into waiting earth  
with a passionate embrace.

No fenced boundaries,  
no limits on their joy,  
savoring sun and rain  
they root and grow,  
singing in the breeze,  
content and free.

Oh, wildflowers,  
grow and sing inside of me!



Sharing...  
a word...  
a phrase...  
a reflection...



## Pachelbel's Canon



Gathered in the love of Christ,  
we are one in the family of God  
We are the dwelling place that love has made.  
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.

God is Light; in God there is no darkness  
Let us walk in the light of life  
If we live in God then we must love each other  
Ever follow the way of truth and light.

See what love our God has shown to us  
To call us the children of life  
As God has loved us so we must love each other  
Ever follow the way of truth and light.

*Marty Haugen the Song and the Silence*

### Thank You For Joining Us!

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8 / 22 / 2017

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## A God Who Plays



Photos by Rob Blair Photography



Centering Space

A ministry of prayer,  
listening & direction

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.