

Mystery

It lives in the seed of a tree as it grows.
You can hear it if you listen to the wind as it blows
It's there in a river as it flows into the sea
It's the sound in the soul of a man becoming free.

And it lives in the laughter of children at play
And in the blazing sun that gives light to the day
It moves the planets and the stars in the sky
It's been the mover of mountains since the beginning of time

*Oh, Mystery, you are alive, I feel you all around
You are the fire in my heart, you are the holy sound
You are all of life, it is to you that I sing
Grant that I may feel you, always, in everything.*

And it lives in the waves as they crash upon the beach
I have seen it in the gods that men have tried to reach
I feel it in the love that I know we need so much
I know it in your smile, my love, when our hearts do touch.

But when I listen deep inside I feel you best of all
Like a moon that's glowing white, and I listen to your call
And I know you will guide me, I feel you like the tide
Rushing through the ocean of my heart that's open wide.

Communion Anthem from [Missa Gaia](#)—Paul Winter
"Mystery" by Geffen
Sung by Susan Osborn

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

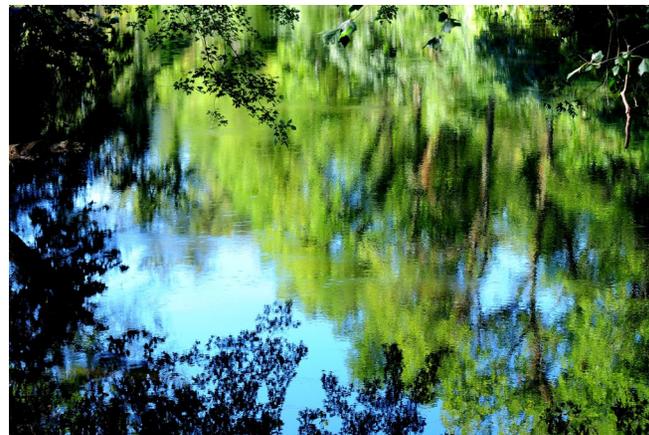
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Why Pray?



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.

To Ponder: Ideas about Prayer, William Cleary

Old-fashioned ideas about prayer can be misleading but they are seldom harmful—unless we begin to blame ourselves for not influencing God more. “Pray hard,” people say, forgetting that God is already all-compassionate, and that no amount of petitioning can bring about change. People make nine days of devotions, say the rosary over and over, make pilgrimages, visit shrines and saintly people—but you can’t pinch God. Goodness and generosity flow from the Evolutionary Mystery constantly, and the most appropriate prayers are words and gestures of surrender, praise, gratitude, and awe.

Verbal prayers make sense, I think, if you know in advance that talking to God is like talking to your dog. You say human words to your dog, but he pretty much ignores that in favor of how you smell. Similarly, whatever divinity there is hears your words of prayer but very likely ignores all you say in favor of the aroma of your heart: your kindness, your compassion—for both your own poor soul and for your have-not brothers and sisters in the world. But the words of your prayer do matter to you: they give shape to your thoughts; they warm and give color to your soul and spur you to a focused listening.



Reading: William Cleary A Larger World ~ Seeking Connection

God, Creator of Mystery,
in the growing revelation of reality evolving around us,
we look with gratitude
at an ever larger and larger world.

Our personal life has its meaning,
and is dovetailed
in all its co-evolutionary ups and downs
into the larger meaning that encompasses us.

None of us can go it alone:
each has innate energies needed by all.

That whistling cardinal, that burgeoning spruce,
that tearful neighbor, that refugee healed of horror—
all are essential.

We give thanks to be conscious
of the awesome narrative of which we are a part,
paradoxical and baffling as it is and must be,
and commit ourselves to creativity
in cooperating with the forces of life.
Amen.

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