

# Holy Ground by Christopher Beatty

This is holy ground  
We're standing on holy ground  
For the Lord is present  
And where He is is holy  
This is holy ground  
We're standing on holy ground  
For the Lord is present  
And where He is is holy

These are holy hands  
He's given us holy hands  
He works through these hands  
And so these hands are holy  
These are holy hands  
He's given us holy hands  
He works through these hands  
And so these hands are holy

These are holy lips  
He's given us holy lips  
He speaks through these lips  
And so these lips are holy  
These are holy lips  
He's given us holy lips  
He speaks through these lips  
And so these lips are holy

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

Ginny Schiros  
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# Returning to Reverence



Summit Metroparks



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:** excerpt from Beauty: The Invisible Embrace by John O'Donohue

In order to become attentive to beauty, we need to rediscover the art of reverence. Our world seems to have lost all sense of reverence. We seldom even use the word any more. The notion of reverence is full of riches that we now need desperately. Put simply, it is appropriate that a human being should dwell on this earth with reverence. As children we become aware of the word 'reverence' as used to describe the way a person is present in prayer or liturgy. When a priest celebrated the mass with a sense of reverence, you sensed the depth of his presence to the mystery. Though the church was full of people, he was absorbed in something that could not be seen. Ultimately, reverence is respect before mystery.

But it is more than an attitude of mind; reverence is also physical — a dignified attention of body showing that sacred is already here. Reverence is not to be reduced to a social posture. Reverence bestows dignity and it is only in light of dignity that the beauty and mystery of a person will become visible. Reverence is not the stiff pious posture which remains frozen and lacks humor and play. To live with a sense of reverence is not to become a prisoner of dull piety.

Playfulness, humor, and even a sense of the anarchic are companions of reverence because they insist on the proper proportion of the human presence in the light of the eternal. Reverence is also the companion of humility. When human hubris intrudes on or manipulates the sacred, the consequence is inevitably humiliation. In contrast, a sense of reverence includes the recognition that one is always in the presence of the sacred.

To live with reverence is to live without judgment, prejudice and the saturation of consumerism. The consumerist heart becomes empty and lonesome because it has squandered reverence. As parent, child, lover, prayer or artist — a sense of reverence opens pathways to beauty to surprise us. The earth is full of thresholds where beauty awaits the wonder of our gaze.

**Reading:** — Ted Loder in Guerrillas of Grace, p. 85

### Let Wonder Have Its Way With Me

O God, your gracious Spirit  
moves over the mysteries of living and dying  
and is strangely present to me  
in the falling leaves,  
the call of wild geese,  
a child's birth,  
the light in a friend's eyes,  
the sudden lifting of the heart,  
and the deep longing which brings me to you now.  
Make me aware of your presence  
that wonder may have its way with me,  
my passion be released,  
my confidence renewed in the depths of your holiness  
until, for a moment,  
my longing for you be fulfilled  
and I know I am really free  
to share bread and intimacy,  
to laugh and exchange mercy,  
to be at ease in my struggles,  
bold in my loving,  
brave in facing down my terror,  
hopeful in the rising music of your kingdom,  
joyful in my living,  
and graceful in my life becoming  
a song of praise ever sung to you.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...