

## Dwelling Place

by John Foley

I fall on my knees to the father of Jesus,  
The Lord who has shown us the glory of God.

May he in his love give us strength for our living  
The strength of his spirit the glory of God.

### Refrain

**May Christ find a dwelling place of faith in our hearts.  
May our lives be rooted in love, rooted in love.**

May grace and peace be yours in God our father  
and in his son **(Refrain)**

I fall on my knees to the father of Jesus,  
The Lord who has shown us the glory of God **(Refrain)**

*Thank You For Joining Us!*

Prayer by Mary Timko  
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[www.centeringspace.org](http://www.centeringspace.org)  
[centeringspace@srsfcharity.org](mailto:centeringspace@srsfcharity.org)  
216-228-7451

*Make My Heart Your  
Bethlehem, Be Born in Me*



**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.

## To Ponder:

Mary Timko

Right after Thanksgiving we ready ourselves, our families, our houses, for Christmas. Our days are busy beyond belief. We want everything to be perfect. Yet, each year in the back of our minds there is a tugging. There is a thought trying to burst forth from our subconscious into our reality; that there is a grand miraculous event sprouting throughout Advent. "We are secretly in a close connection with the eternal truth and love, even if we ourselves are not aware of it." (Barth) Our busy-ness causes us to forget the connection or pushes it to the back of our minds with a promise to find time later. Mother Teresa once noted that the first person to welcome Christ was John the Baptist who leaped for joy in recognizing him, though both were within their mothers' wombs. We on the other hand are so busy we fail to hear anything from within.

The true joy of this holy season is one momentous event: God's coming into our midst. God in the flesh and God in the Spirit. Advent is not merely a commemorative event or anniversary. This is not something that happened in the past. Each and every year we are asked to become part of this mystery. Each one of us can give into the tugging and experience the ever-reaching light that looms in the manger and lives beyond the cross. Each has an invitation. An invitation to allow the Christ Child to come live in our very hearts and a call to take up our cross and follow our Savior.

Thinking back to grade school, I remember Sr. Ann Arthur saying, "Keep your hearts clean so Jesus can come live there." How? I tried not to fight with my brothers and I went to confession and received Holy Communion as often as I could. What is our challenge as adults? To welcome Christ's light in our hearts point the way to a lifelong pursuit.

Jesus came to save us from our sins, to redeem us. Yet while Jesus was here on earth he taught us how to be human to one another. Through Jesus Christ we are sons and daughters of the Father; as such our daily lives should point to our Savior's message. Our Christmas cheer is to continue Jesus' work. We are to spread the Good News: feed the hungry, make the lame walk, give sight to the blind, free the oppressed, love one another. What joy there would be if everyone allowed the light in their hearts and God's call to govern their lives?

## The Word:

John of the Cross

One dark night  
fired by love's urgent longing  
ah, the sheer grace—  
I went out unseen,  
my house being now all stilled  
... with no other light or guide  
than the one that burned in my heart.  
This guided me  
more surely than the light of noon  
to where he waited for me  
him I knew so well.

## Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection