

When You're Smiling Louis Armstrong

I saw a blind man, He was a kind man,
Helping a fellow along.
One could not see, One could not walk,
But they both were humming this song:

When you're smiling. When you're smiling.
The whole world smiles with you,
When you're laughing, When you're laughing,
The sun comes shining through.
But when you're crying you bring on the rain,
So stop your sighing, be happy again,
Keep on smiling 'cause when you're smiling,
The whole world smiles with you.

I used to worry, I used to hurry,
Each time it started to rain,
Now I see light, learned wrong from right,
And you'll never hear me complain:

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

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10/18/2016

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Fit to be Alive



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: from Ed Hayes, Chasing Joy

The Apache creation story tells how the creator prepared the very first humans to come alive by giving them the abilities to talk, walk and run, think and plan, look and hear. While all this was good, something critical was missing. So the creator withheld life from human creation until they could do just one more thing - laugh! Then humans laughed and laughed and laughed. And the creator said: "Now at last are you fit to be alive."

While called to live our lives in joy, we are not required to greet every event in our lives with laughter. On this woefully wounded earth such unrestricted delight as is expressed by laughter isn't possible. Smiling however may be the path to peace in our world today. Smiling is a sure remedy for xenophobia – the fear of strangers, especially those of a different colored skin from yours, or who speak a foreign language. Smiling to any stranger immediately indicates that you don't consider them as dangerous or an enemy, but an unknown friend. The unrecognized friend is your Beloved who promised that whenever you reach to assist those in need, He would be the one who helped you, even if only with a smile. To those who hunger for welcome and acceptance, a smiling face is food and drink. Befriending the hidden friend requires life-long faith since the Beloved will not be unmasked in this life time, but only after death, when you learn to your surprise at whom you were really smiling.



Reading: (a prayer by Maya Angelou)

Father, Mother, God,
Thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days
for then we have You to lean upon.

Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days,
for then we can share that which we have
with those who have less.

And thank you during the Holy days for You
and our families and our friends,
and for those who have no voice, for then we are able to celebrate.

We ask to speak for those who feel unworthy
asking You to pour your love out in waterfalls of tenderness.

For those who live in pain,
we ask You to bathe them in the river of Your healing.

For those who are lonely,
we ask You to keep them company.

For those who are depressed,
we ask You to shower upon them the Light of hope.

Dear Creator, You, the borderless Sea of substance,
we ask You to give to all the world that which we need most-
PEACE.

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