

If I Had a Hammer Peter, Paul and Mary

If I had a hammer
I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening
All over this land
I'd hammer out danger
I'd hammer out warning
I'd hammer out love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land, ooh

If I had a bell
I'd ring it in the morning
I'd ring it in the evening
All over this land
I'd ring out danger
I'd ring out warning
I'd ring out love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land, ooh

If I had a song
I'd sing it in the morning
I'd sing it in the evening
All over this land
I'd sing out danger
I'd sing out warning
I'd sing out love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land, ooh

Well, I've got a hammer
And I've got a bell
And I've got a song to sing
All over this land
It's the hammer of justice
It's the bell of freedom
It's a song about love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land

It's a hammer of justice
It's a bell of freedom
It's a song about love between my
brothers and my sisters
All over this land

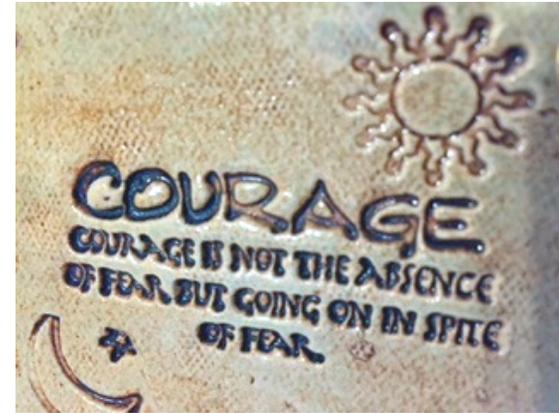
Prayer Leader:

Betsy Nero

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The Gift of Courage



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.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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Ponder: Joan Chittister, *The Gift of Courage*

from Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope

Courage is the capacity to stand our ground, to speak the truth even in the face of overwhelming odds. Courage is not nearly so rare a quality as we sometimes like to think it is. Truth is that courage is what carries simple people through an average day. It is not an action; it is an attitude. It is the spiritual strength that gives direction in the midst of confusion. It is no more uncommon than fear. It is, in fact the child of fear. Each of us, every day, in one way or another, is called to courage. Courage is not an exceptional virtue. It is what makes the difference between a gracious and a noxious world. It drives us to reevaluate all the unchallenged assumptions of life, to confute the unacceptable, to confront the oppressive, and, if we do, eventually to change the unchangeable.

Courage is the counterpart to honesty. It counts character more than acceptance. It speaks up when silence is the key to social approval. Courage does not come in a burst of insight. Courage comes out of the way we think and the way we live from Sunday to Sunday, every week of our lives. Courage also implies our willingness to be honest with ourselves as well as with others.

And, courage is not the lost part of ourselves; it is the hidden part of ourselves that only fear can energize. Fear is not the opposite of courage. Fear is the catalyst of courage. Courage is coming to realize that what does and does not happen in the world does so because of what you and I fail to say – not when silence is right, but when we fear the cost to ourselves of speaking out.

Reading: Leunig, *A Common Prayer*

God help us to change.
To change ourselves
and to change our world.
To know the need for it.
To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it.
To undertake the journey



Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...