

We Are Called

David Haas

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 life be rooted in Love, rooted in Love

May grace and peace be yours in  
God our Father and in His Son

May Christ find a dwelling place of faith in our hearts  
May our lives be rooted in Love, rooted in Love

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# From Forgiveness to Renewal and on to Pure Joy



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:

by Mary Timko

Some time ago I went on my first silent retreat. It was just before Lent and I was hoping it would help me make the most of the coming season. Lent has always been a time for me to focus on my relationship with God. There are growing edges that have continually been kinks in the armor of my spiritual life. I can be lazy, especially in prayer, I let small things over power me, and I lose focus of those things that make my life worth living, especially my relationship with God.

The warmth we have enjoyed as of late makes it easy to link this coming Lent to spring. I believe I saw buds sprouting on the bushes near the drive. Can't you picture our hearts as buds waiting for the nourishment that only God can provide? God's care for us is in the gift of Jesus. Though we try to follow Jesus we often get interrupted by life and find that we have lost our way. This Lent could be a time where we set our focus once again on Jesus.

However, following Jesus, receiving what God is offering, can often be difficult. Sometimes life hits us hard. We may feel like the sands of the desert, dry and easily blown about instead of like a blooming bud. I often wondered if I could survive in the desert with the master of deceit as Jesus did. That is how big my ego can get. And I have found this to be painful experience. I believe we all let our ego get in the way. But out of that pain can come an introspection, how difficult it is to be human and remain in relationship with God.

Jesus understood being human. Jesus knew how easy it was for us to lose our way. Jesus spent time away from his disciples and the crowds searching for his Father within. Jesus sought only that which God can give.

Jesus also knew that we are easily distracted. Our minds flit to a million different distractions in only one day. Jesus tried to show us that God is our respite. God's patience is never ending. God longs to be with us. And, though we think we can do it on our own, we need God. We want to belong to God. God is our oasis in the desert. God is our oasis in prayer despite our wondering thoughts. And the more we search out what only God can provide we will see the wisdom of Jesus who teaches us to search for God's love, which is Pure Joy!

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

The Reading: Meditations and Mandalas by Nan C. Merrill

O friends, let us open our minds and  
our hearts

to explore the Mystery of our inner beings  
our outer challenges;

let us face the obstacles and veils to  
freedom and wonder.

Be not afraid of change! For still ponds become  
stagnant when not quickened and nourished  
by hidden streams.

O Blessed One, enliven us with living  
streams of your mercy

cast off our outworn garments

of fear and judgment and adorn us  
with the Light of awakened consciousness!

O Divine Guest, dream your Dream in us!

Instruct us in the wisdom of the heart,  
our interconnecting center with

Divine Love, that we may join You in the  
Great Song of the Creation

