

# I'm Listening Chris McClarney

When you speak confusion fades  
Just a word and suddenly I'm not afraid  
'Cause You speak and freedom reigns  
There is hope in every single word You say

I don't wanna miss one word You speak  
'Cause everything You say is life to me  
I don't wanna miss one word You speak  
Quiet my heart, I'm listening

When sorrows roar and troubles rage  
You whisper peace when I don't have the words to say  
I won't lose hope when storms won't break  
You keep Your word, oh and Your promises will keep me safe

I don't wanna miss one word You speak  
'Cause everything You say is life to me  
I don't wanna miss one word You speak  
So quiet my heart, I'm listening

Your ways are higher  
You know just what I need  
I trust You, Jesus  
You see what I cannot see

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaxSB\\_bi8Hc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaxSB_bi8Hc)

Prayer Leader:  
Ginny Schiros  
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# Finding Peace in Silence



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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.

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## To Ponder: Fr. Richard Rohr

The Opposite of Meditation isn't Action, it is Reaction

When we connect with silence as a living, primordial presence, we can then see all other things - and experience them deeply - inside that container. Silence is not just an absence, but a primal presence. Silence surrounds every "I know" with a humble and patient "I don't know." It protects the autonomy and dignity of events, persons, animals, and all created things.

To be clear, the kind of silence I'm describing does not ignore injustice. As Barbara Holmes explains: "Some of us allow [silence] to fully envelop and nurture our seeking; others who have been silenced by oppression seek to voice the joy of spiritual reunion in an evocative counterpoint. As frightening as it may be to "center down," we must find the stillness at the core of the shout, the pause in the middle of the "amen," as first steps toward restoration."

We must find a way to return to this place, live in this place, abide in this place of inner silence. Outer silence means very little if there is not a deeper inner silence. Everything else appears much clearer when it appears or emerges out of silence.

Without silence, we do not really experience our experiences. We are here, but not in the depth of here. We have many experiences, but they do not have the power to change us, awaken us, or give us the joy and peace that the world cannot give, as Jesus says. (John 14:27)

Without some degree of inner and even outer silence, we are never living, never tasting the moment. The opposite of contemplation is not action, it is reaction. We must wait for pure action, which proceeds from deep silence.

## Reading: John Dear

The Sound of Listening

What is the sound of listening?

A resonating silence, like the infinite fine line between a grey sky and the ocean, where the horizon cannot be distinguished.

My soul blends into the silence around me.  
Into that silence comes a voice:

"I love you. Do not be afraid. I am with you.  
I give you my peace. You are always with me."

The words sound sweet and tender,  
gentler than any human voice.

"Blessed are you. Blessed are you. Blessed,"  
says the silence.



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